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No. 65,422

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11 1995

Executions are 'a great insult to the gods of justice in this world'

Nigeria faces expulsion for hanging nine

FROM NICHOLAS WOOD IN AUCKLAND AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

REUTERS

Ken Saro-Wiwa, the writer. His wife was unable to visit him before his execution

NIGERIA'S military regime flagrantly defied world opinion yesterday, executing the writer Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other activists for regional rights, despite an international campaign for clemency.

The hangings plunged the Commonwealth into one of the worst crises in its history and jeopardised Nigeria's membership. The writer had been nominated for the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize and the executions drew universal condemnation from governments, human rights campaigners and literary figures.

John Major, attending the heads of government meeting in Auckland, said: "There can be no place for Nigeria in the Commonwealth."

The Foreign Office said: "We are appalled at this callous act. The executions violate Nigeria's commitments under international law to provide a fair trial and right of appeal."

President Mandela of South Africa, who had urged a continuation of dialogue with Nigeria, said he would recommend its expulsion.

The Commonwealth's response is to be determined at a weekend retreat. A source said: "After suspension you've got to think of sanctions. If the Commonwealth isn't seen to act it will lose its credibility."

In the United Nations Security Council, Madeleine Albright, the US Ambassador, said her Government was outraged. "This heinous act offends our values and darkens our hopes for democracy. My Government is now urgently considering what further steps to take, including action by this council."

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Ben Okri, the author who won the Booker Prize in 1991 and was a close friend of Ken Saro-Wiwi, said he was "completely, completely heartbroken." He added: "It is a great insult to the gods of justice in this world. The only thing to do now is to to intensify world pressure and bring about democracy in that country. It is a grim, grim day."

Another close friend, the writer William Boyd, said: "I can't believe it has happened to Ken. It seems to have been played in a parallel universe."

Harold Pinter, the playwright, said: "Murder is the most brutal form of censorship and the Nigerian military has proved by this act the desperation of its leaders who are prepared to take any steps to stay in power."

Michael Birnbaum, QC, who observed the trial for the Bar Human Rights Committee and the Law Society said: "This was a tame tribunal whose members were chosen by the dictator of Nigeria in order to avoid a trial before an independent court."

David Howell, chairman of the All Party Foreign Affairs Committee, said Nigeria could expect to be forced out of the Commonwealth.

Bill Morris, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, called for a boycott of Shell Oil "because of the role Shell have played in the exploitation of the Ogoni people and the company's support for the Nigerian dictatorship".

News of the executions came from the News Agency of Nigeria which reported that the nine men were hanged at Port Harcourt prison in southeastern Nigeria at about 1130 local (1030 GMT) after priests prayed for them. Their bodies were taken out for burial at the city cemetery four hours later amid tight security.

The wives of the condemned men had tried to bring their husbands a meal late on Thursday but were turned away. Hauwa Saro-Wiwa, his weeping wife, said: "Oh God, what am I going to do? He is the only thing I have in the whole world."

Mr Saro-Wiwa and his colleagues were sentenced by a tribunal last week over the murder in 1994 of four pro-government Ogoni tribal chiefs. The writer had campaigned on behalf of the 500,000 Ogoni people who live in Nigeria's oil-rich south and say their land and water are being destroyed by oil industry pollution. Oil accounts for about 80 per cent of Nigeria's export income, and critics of the industry often are silenced.

As president of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni Peoples he had led a campaign for self-determination for the Ogoni minority and to protect the environment in their homeland.

The Royal Dutch/Shell Group, which operated in Ogoniland until 1993, said it deeply regretted the executions but had no immediate plans to alter its operations in the rest of the country. "From the violence that led to the murder of the four Ogoni leaders in May last year through to the death penalty having been carried out, the human cost has been too high," the company said.

Nation prepares to pay silent tribute

BY BILL FROST

FOR the first time in almost 60 years Britain may all but come to a halt this morning as the nation stands in silent tribute to her war dead and injured on Armistice Day.

At the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month — when 77 years ago the guns fell silent at the end of the Great War — the nation will remember those who fell. There will be memories too of those who died in the Second World War and subsequent conflicts — a total of almost 1½ million men.

Chain stores, supermarkets, corner shopkeepers and publicans have all pledged support to a Royal British Legion campaign aimed at ensuring the fallen are not forgotten. Customers will be urged to stay silent for two minutes of quiet reflection.

Branches of Sainsbury, Asda and Woolworth will broadcast loudspeaker messages to shoppers just as 11.00 is about to strike. Harrods will do the same.

Others joining the campaign include McDonald's and British Telecom. London cabbies have promised to pull over to the side of the road for two minutes and not charge passengers any extra for the journey. Participants in the Lord Mayor's Show in London will also pay homage: the procession will not begin until 11.02am.

John Major, in New Zealand for the Commonwealth Conference, has told the Royal British Legion that he too will honour the two-minute silence, as will other leaders.

Remembrance Sunday is expected to bring an estimated 10,000 old soldiers, sailors an airmen to the Cenotaph.

Nation's standstill, page 10
Magnus Linklater, page 20

Three drivers injured as trains collide

Three train drivers were last night taken to hospital after a collision between a London-bound express and an empty commuter train outside Paddington Station, London.

At least three passengers on the InterCity train from Swansea also suffered minor injuries in the crash which occurred at Royal Oak, about a mile from the station. The accident at about 4.25pm closed lines from Paddington to Bristol, Cardiff and other western routes.

John Scripps

Death penalty for Briton

Briton John Scripps, 35, faces death by hanging in Singapore after being convicted yesterday of killing and dismembering a South African tourist. Suspected of murdering another three victims, including a London businessman, Scripps is to appeal. Scotland Yard officers are flying to interview him about the businessman's death in Belize ....Page 3

Siamese twins born in London

Siamese twins were born last night in Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital, west London. The boys, who were later transferred to Great Ormond Street Hospital, were reported to be stable.

INSIDE

Jane MacQuitty's list of top 20 wines at under £5
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Magnus Linklater on memories and remembrance
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Simon Jenkins calls for a modern Lord Mayor
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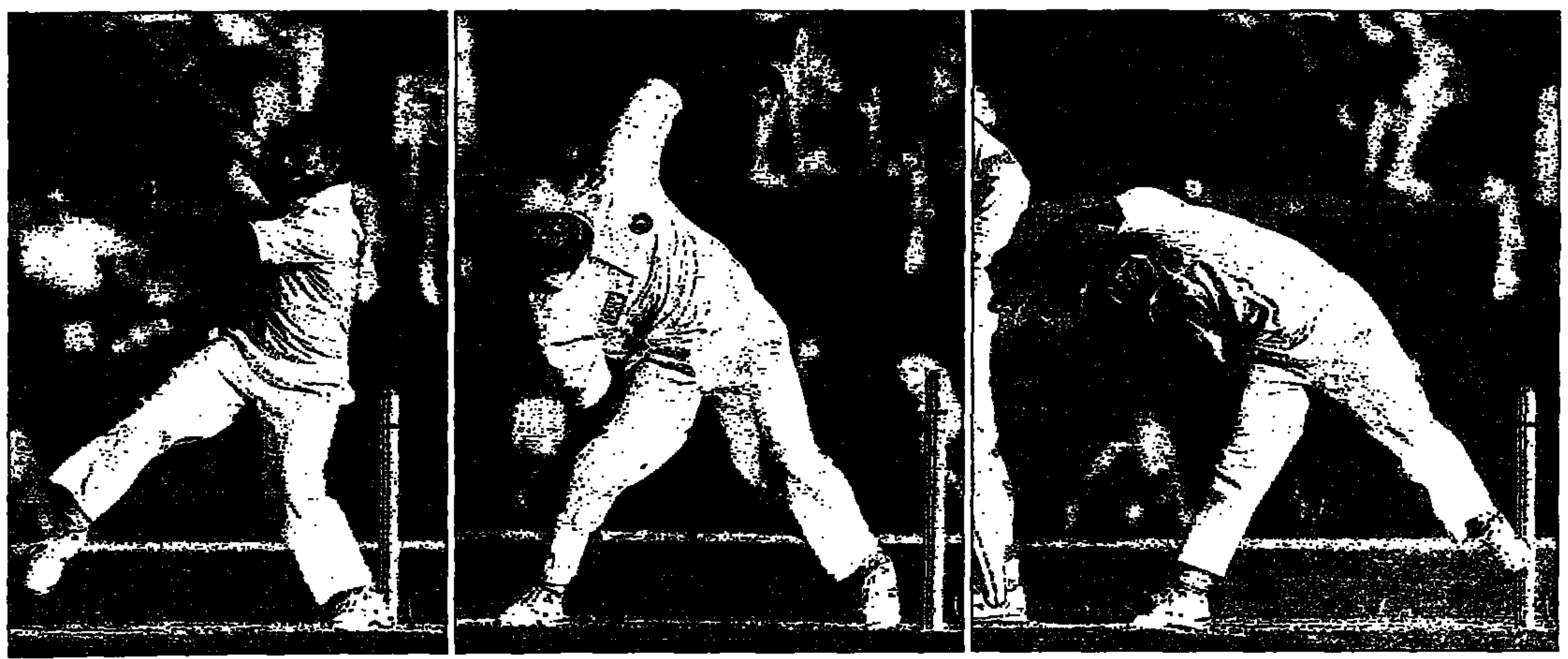

South African teenager Paul Adams in action yesterday: fascinated England players gathered at the sightscreen to study his bizarre action

England tumbles to 'frog in blender' googly

FROM ALAN LEE IN KIMBERLEY

ENGLAND'S cricketers came to South Africa expecting to confront a battalion of hostile fast bowlers. Instead, yesterday, they were embarrassed by a diminutive, teenage Cape coloured practising the ancient and neglected art of left-arm wrist-spin with an action that has famously been described as resembling a frog in a blender.

Paul Adams, the son of a fisherman from a humbler parts of Cape Town, is just 18. He works in his brother's television repair shop and is playing only the third first-class match of his infant cricketing career. And yet, representing South Africa A in the diamond-mining town of Kimberley, he dismissed three of England's top five Test players for one run, threatening the touring side with a damaging defeat in their final warm-up match before the Test series.

Adams is a throwback. Forty years ago and more, leg-spin bowlers were plentiful, even of the left-arm variety. Some bestrode the Test and county scene, their exploits fondly recalled yesterday by the England manager, Raymond Illingworth. Changes in pitches and a shift in the pace and philosophy of cricket had largely seen them banished to the backwaters of the amateur game..

But Adams is something different again. Because he bowls left-arm, and because his stock ball is the googly that spins away to the right-hander's off-side after pitching, rather than the so-called Chinaman, which spins in, he is an alien being to almost all the current England team. Add to this the fact that he delivers the ball with a bizarre head movement that points his face first at the sky and then at the turf and it can be appreciated that he is a disconcerting opponent.

Warne's first ball in a Test Match in England turned more than a yard to bowl a dumbfounded Mike Gatting. It was widely acclaimed as the ball of the century. The citizens of Kimberley had to wait a little longer for their new hero yesterday. It was Adams's second ball that bowled the England vice-captain, Alec Stewart, and he quickly followed it with the wickets of Graham Thorpe and Graeme Hick.

As he continued his spell, fascinated England players gathered by the sightscreen to study his bizarre action. They may be seeing plenty more of it, too. Although the South African side has already been named for the first oif five Tests, which begins next Thursday, Adams is now a clear contender to feature later in the series.

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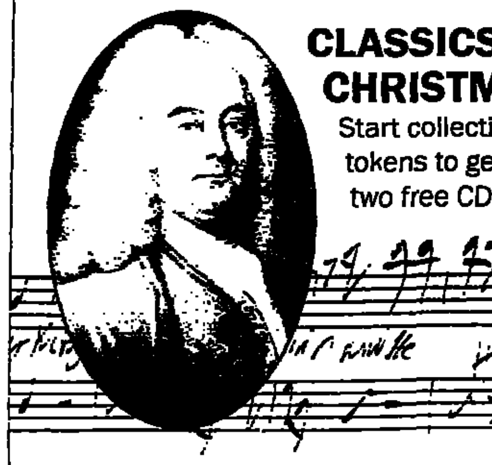

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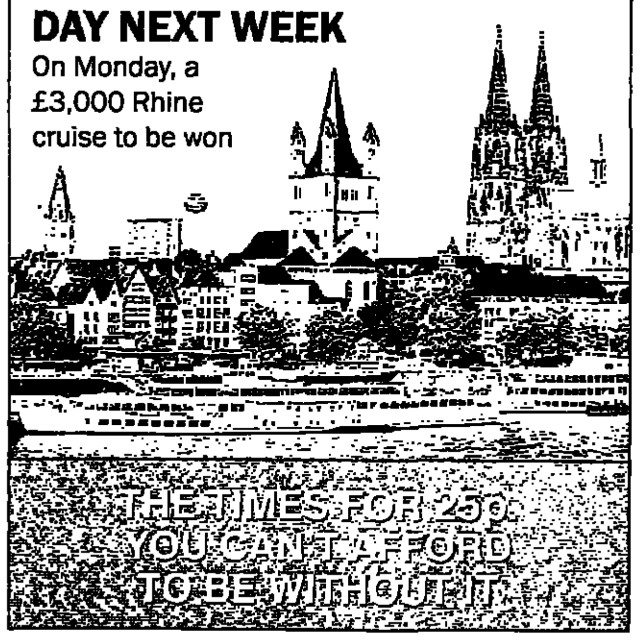

Irish police seize 1,000lb bomb from van

By Nicholas Watt
Ireland Correspondent

IRISH police seized a van yesterday containing a 1,000lb bomb which republican dissidents were planning to explode in Northern Ireland to destabilise the peace process.

Armed officers who stopped the van within miles of the border also found up to 700lb of explosives in a nearby shed, which is believed to have been a bomb-making factory. Security sources in the Republic said they believed the bomb was the work of the Irish National Republican Army, the terrorist wing of Republican Sinn Fein. The party, which broke away from Sinn Fein in 1986, is opposed to the IRA ceasefire.

The IRA, in a statement issued in Dublin, categorically denied any involvement in the bomb find. It came as Sinn Fein gave its strongest statement yet that the peace process was nearing collapse. Martin McGuinness, who has been leading the party's talks with the Government, will say in a BBC Radio 4 interview today: "I fear that the entire peace process is almost on the threshold of a complete collapse."

Mr McGuinness, regarded as the leading republican stategist, says: "We actually don't have a peace process at this time because of the refusal of other parties to come to the table." Asked if that suggests a return to violence is imminent, he replies: "There is every danger of history repeating itself."

However, Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said last night that the discovery of the bomb underlined the need for the IRA to begin to decommission its arms before Sinn Fein can join all-party talks. He said there was a continuing threat from "evil people" who wanted to mount terrorist attacks.

Detectives from the Irish police's anti-terrorist squad closed in on a white Toyota Hiace van at about 5.30am yesterday as it was parked in a lane near Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan, which is within five miles of the hardline republican area of south Armagh across the border. They arrested one man at the scene and a second shortly after.

A helicopter from the Republic's Army Air Corps searched for three other men who escaped, one of whom was arrested yesterday afternoon. The arrests were the culmination of a lengthy intelligence operation which was co-ordinated at police headquarters in Dublin.

Bomb disposal experts from the Irish Army found the bomb, which was made from homemade explosives, packed into 13 plastic bags in the back of the van. A police explosives expert said last night that three booster charges were set into the explosive mixture and a fuse linked the explosives to detonators in the front of the van.

It is understood that the device was going to be used in a terrorist attack against a security force base in Northern Ireland. Another detective said: "It could have caused massive damage and death if detonated." The seizure of the bomb yesterday was the most dramatic security operation in the Republic since the IRA ceasefire in August last year and underlines the gravity of the threat from the INRA. The organisation, which has about 50 members, hopes to attract dissident members of the IRA who are opposed to the ceasefire.

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, said yesterday that the bomb underlined the fragility of the peace process and called for immediate all-party talks. David Trimble, the leader of the Ulster Unionists, said: "I wouldn't be surprised if this was done with the assistance or the blessing of Sinn Fein/IRA as a reminder to the Northern Ireland Office of what will happen if they don't kowtow to the IRA."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chauffer loses case

The chauffeur to John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB union, yesterday lost his claim of racial discrimination at an industrial tribunal. The hearing ruled that the evidence of Tahir Raffi Janjua, of Norbury, south London, could not be considered as reliable and accurate. Mr Edmonds said he was delighted that the GMB had been vindicated. "As a trade union, we must set an example," he said.

Arsonist jailed

A businessman who believed his ex-wife had an affair with the racehorse trainer Ian Balding was jailed for six years for arson. Michael Butcher, 46, caused £14,000 damage to a cottage owned by Mr Balding's wife and distributed poison-pen leaflets in a "vitriolic hate campaign", Winchester Crown Court was told. He had denied arson.

Murder charge

Stuart Smith, 19, and Roberto Pace and Richard Bowness, both 18, have been remanded in custody by Plymouth magistrates charged with the murder of Frederick Sweet, 64, and attempted murder of Bernard Hawken, 54, in Central Park, Plymouth, where Mr Sweet's body was found on Monday with multiple injuries. Mr Hawken was found near by.

STEVE BAIN

Peter Phillips gets in some passing practice with Gordonstoun teammates yesterday

Royalty on road to rugby honours

after being named as a replacement for Scotland Schools against Scotland Under-18 in Edinburgh next Friday (Mark Souster writes). The Princess Royal's son took a step closer to becoming the first member of the Royal Family to play representative rugby for Scotland after impressing the selectors in a trial at Murrayfield on Wednesday in which he scored a try.

Even if he were to come on as a substitute Peter would not, on this occasion, win a cap. His target will be to represent Scotland in the schools home international series against England, Wales, Ireland and France later in the season.

The 17-year-old, who qualifies for Scotland by dint of residency and whose mother is the patron of the Scottish Rugby Union, shows considerable ability as an open side wing forward. However his height, 5ft 10in, may prevent him from reaching the very top of the sport, although such distinguished internationals as David Sole, the former Scotland captain, and the centre Scott Hastings believe he deserves his chance. Sole, who presented his jersey to the young Peter after the 1990 Grand Slam season, said: "Having coached Peter I've known for a while he had real ability. Peter's mother represented Britain at the Olympics, and there's no reason why he shouldn't go on from here."

Peter has played a major part in the success enjoyed by his school First XV this season. Gordonstoun has five representatives in the Schools squad and two in the side, among them Fergie Gladstone, a descendant of the former Prime Minister. Chris Barton, master in charge of rugby at Gordonstoun, said yesterday: "The fact that five members of the First XV are in the squad reflects the strength of rugby at the school, which is enjoying a highly succesful season."

Asked if his pupil had been picked because of who he was Ben Goss, his housemaster, said: "You watch his work rate. He's good."

Peter has come a long way from captaining a school team at a match in Inverness when the referee, on recognising the Queen's grandson, said: "Sir would you like to call tails or Granny?"

Howard censured over killer's sentence

By A Staff Reporter

THE Home Secretary was criticised by a High Court judge yesterday for unfairly increasing by a third the minimum period a double murderer must spend in prison before being considered for release.

The High Court's latest rebuff to the Home Secretary was the second successful challenge to the setting of a tariff to be served by a prisoner on a mandatory life sentence.

Mr Howard was granted leave to appeal, but Mr Justice Turner said if he was to do so it should be done with the "the utmost expedition". The case could have implications for similar rulings. The latest ruling will add to the strained relations between the Government and the judiciary.

John Pierson received two life sentences for the "horrifying and apparently motiveless" shooting of his parents as they slept in their farmhouse near Oswestry, Shropshire, in 1984. The trial judge and the then Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, recommended a minimum of 15 years. However, in August 1993 he was told that the Home Secretary had increased the tariff by five years to 20 years. Mr Justice Turner said Mr Howard had "failed to measure up to the required standard of fairness".

The judge said Mr Howard had erred in law in believing that he had "an absolute discretion" to increase a lifer's minimum sentence if he thought fit. In exceptional circumstances, for example when new information of an adverse character about a prisoner came to light, the minister could make a decision to increase the period of detention.

But one of the main purposes in requiring the Home Secretary to state the minimum period mandatory lifers must serve was to enable prisoners to know "with a reasonable degree of accuracy" how long they should expect to remain in custody.

In the case of Pierson, who was 20 at the time of the murders, there was no new aggravating factor giving rise to exceptional circumstances, and the Home Secretary had to exercise his discretion fairly. The judge added: "If fairness is the parameter which is to govern the exercise of his discretion, the intelligent observer of the history of the present case might think that the Secretary of State has failed to measure up to the required standard."

During the hearing Edward Fitzgerald, QC, representing Pierson, claimed that the Home Secretary had "irrationally" fixed a tariff period longer than that recommended by both the trial judge, Mr Justice Michael Davies, and the Lord Chief Justice. A shorter term would have been appropriate given Pierson's youth and his previous good character.

In November 1994 the Court of Appeal quashed Mr Howard's decision that two Kashmiri students jailed for life for the murder of an Indian diplomat should serve a minimum of 25 years. The initial minimum had been ten years.

Peter Butler, a Tory member of the Home Affairs Select Committee, said after the ruling that the Home Secretary ought to have the power to increase sentences. "It may be a matter then for legislation to clear it up once and for all," he said on BBC Radio 4.

"The trial judge is not the font of all knowledge and there has to be some procedure whereby an obviously too lenient sentence can be increased."

Tories attack storyline of BBC drama

CABINET ministers have put pressure on the BBC to rethink a decision to screen an episode of *Casualty* tonight in which a fundholding GP sends a patient to a hospital 50 miles away.

Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, and Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, are demanding that the BBC follows its guidelines in ensuring that dramatic portrayals of contemporary situations remain do not give a "totally misleading" impression.

John Birt, the BBC Director-General, rejected suggestions of innacuracy.

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Escaped convict shows no emotion as Singapore judge talks of more unsolved killings

Briton is sentenced to die on the gallows for murder of tourist

REPORTS BY
STEWART TENDLER
AND ANDREW DRUMMOND

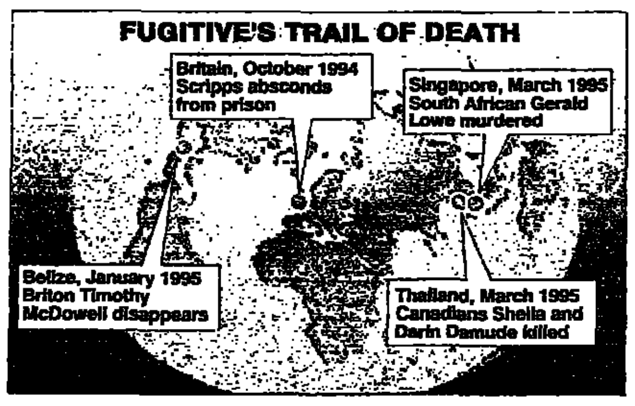
A BRITISH fugitive suspected of preying on tourists showed no emotion yesterday as he was sentenced to hang for murder in Singapore.

John Scripps, 35, from Letchworth, Hertfordshire, was found guilty of killing a South African tourist he befriended, then dismembering him and dumping the body in the city harbour. His motive was said to be to steal the man's money and credit cards.

He was said to be laughing and joking with his guards minutes before the verdict.

Scripps, on the run from a British prison, will appeal against the sentence for the murder of Gerald Lowe, a brewery worker, but could go to the gallows next March. He is also suspected of the murder of three other tourists: Timothy McDowell, 28, a London business consultant who vanished in Belize last January on a trekking holiday, and Canadian Sheila Damude, 49, and her son Darin, 23, who were found dumped in undergrowth on the Thai holiday island of Phuket.

Passing sentence yesterday,


FUGITIVE'S TRAIL OF DEATH
Britain, October 1994 Scripps absconds from prison
Singapore, March 1995 South African Gerald Lowe murdered
Belize, January 1995 Briton Timothy McDowell disappears
Thailand, March 1995 Canadians Sheila and Darin Damude killed

Judge T.S. Sinnathuray said that, from evidence provided by Thai witnesses, he believed Scripps was also guilty of killing the two Canadians.

The Briton maintained that Lowe's killing was accidental — a violent reaction to a homosexual pass and pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

The death sentence is mandatory for a murder conviction. After the murder in a shared hotel room on March 8, Scripps dismembered his victim using butchery techniques he learnt in the kitchen of Albany prison on the Isle of Wight.

Parts of Lowe's body, including his torso and legs, were found floating in Singapore harbour wrapped in black plastic bin-bags. The head and arms have never been found. Scripps was arrested with weapons including a hammer, a sharp set of knives, an electric stun gun, handcuffs and thumbscrews. He also had *passports* and credit cards belonging to Lowe and to the Canadian tourists.

Jennifer Marie, for the prosecution, *showed that* Scripps used Lowe's credit card to go on a shopping spree after the murder, including buying a ticket for a classical music concert, and withdrawing thousands of dollars from a bank. His mother, Jean Scripps, 58, from Sandown, Isle of Wight, sat through part of the trial but was back in Britain yesterday.

She said: "I brought John into this world. I am the only person who has the right to take him out of it.

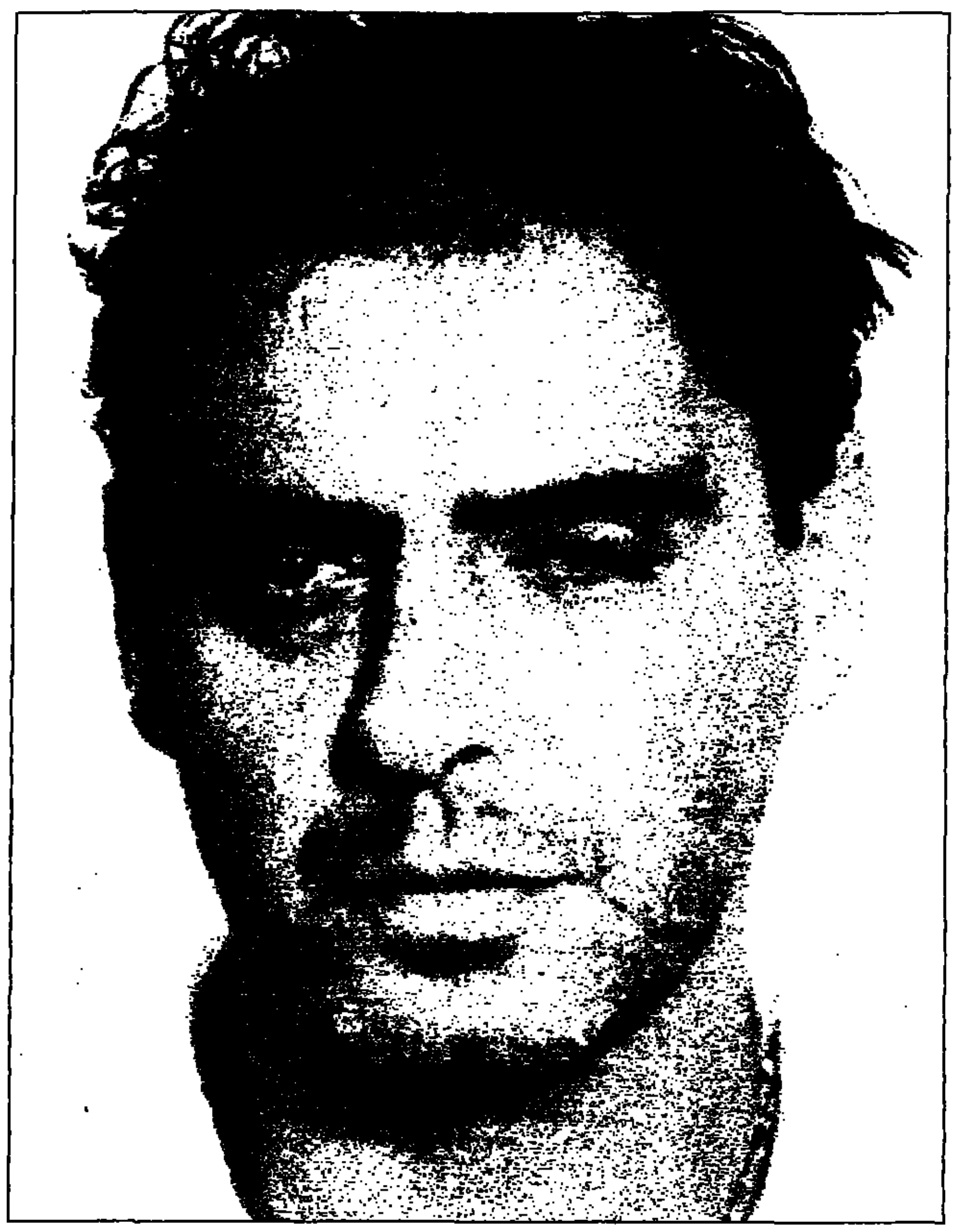
"I cannot believe how my boy could have changed from a kind human being into the monster he has been described in court."

Edmond Pereira, Scripps's lawyer, said the Briton was determined to exhaust all legal channels.

Under Singapore law, Scripps is allowed to file a notice of appeal within 14 days. Such an appeal would likely be heard early next year. If it were rejected, Scripps could still make a last-ditch petition for clemency to Singapore's president.

Scotland Yard is sending officers to Singapore to question Scripps about the murder of Mr McDowell. Officers have been to Mexico and Belize tracing the movements of the two men.

The Foreign Office said that any diplomatic appeals on behalf of Britons sentenced to death were decided on their merits, after all legal avenues had failed.


John Scripps: determined to exhaust all legal procedures on mandatory sentence

Suspected victim vanished in Belize

ONE of John Scripps's suspected victims, 28-year-old Timothy McDowell, was an adventurous and high-flying Cambridge graduate who had everything to live for when he vanished on holiday in Belize.

A successful management consultant, he had been working on a freelance contract with the packaging firm Nurdin and Peacock. Alex Rentall, the commercial director, said: "He was one of the brightest consultants I ever worked with. He was a tall, fit young man with boundless energy and enthusiasm. It is truly a tragic loss."

At the end of last year he decided to take a long holiday and go backpacking through Central and South America. He was last heard from in January, diving on a reef.

His family began to get worried in February, when it was discovered that $20,000 had been transferred from accounts in London to accounts in the United States later found to have been opened by Scripps. When Scripps was arrested one of Mr McDowell's friends recognised an alias he used was the same as the account name.

By then police in Belize had found human remains in a harbour. After an autopsy they were cremated. Scotland Yard now believes Mr McDowell was the victim.

Prison blunders left Scripps free to kill

THE petty thief who became a drug dealer and ended up as a serial killer. He might never have been free but for the failings of the British prison system. John Scripps now faces questioning by British police but the authorities in Thailand are also checking the cases of several foreign tourists who they fear might have also died at this hands.

The tall, quietly spoken man born in Letchworth in Hertfordshire began his criminal career with petty thefts but ended up murdering for cash to survive on the run from prison in Britain. He killed his *victims with a hammer* after paralysing them with a stungun and dismembered them to conceal their identities. He was taught butchery in a British prison.

Scotland Yard want to ask Scripps *about the death of* Timothy McDowell, a London businessman who vanished backpacking through South America. Thai and Canadian officers are investigating the deaths of Mrs Sheila Damude, *48, the former* secretary to a Canadian politician, and her 21-year-old son Darin who met Scripps on the pleasure island of Phuket and then disappeared. Scripps might never have been free to kill but for blunders by the prison authorites in Britain. Three times he absconded while on home leave and committed new crimes.

Last October he was allowed home from prison for fourth time and promptly absconded. His family say he had been refused parole two days earlier and *made* it clear he was likely to abscond. The Prison Service says officers at The Mount prison in Hertfordshire have since been disciplined. The escape was the final chapter in a criminal career which began at the age of 15. Scripps, who was a keen traveller, went to the United States and Mexico where he met a Mexican girl Maria Pilar Arellanos, aged 17. They married in 1980 in London and lived and travelled together for two years.

In 1982 he was convicted on ten counts of burglary and asked for 30 offences to be taken into consideration. Then he absconded. Recaptured in Britain, he went to prison again for burglary. Again he was *given home leave* and fled. Two years later in 1987 he was charged with supplying heroin. By now he had set up home in St John's Wood, an expensive area of London. He was jailed for seven years and absconded again in 1990. He used German and Belgian aliases and had changed his name by deed poll to John Martin. He was eventually caught and jailed for six years to run concurrently with the sentences from which he had escaped.

On home leave in October last year he vanished once more and within a month he was in Mexico, telling the British Embassy he was John Martin and had lost his passport. He was given a new one. In mid-January he entered Mexico through Belize. It was here he met Mr McDowell whom he is believed to have killed as he slept.

At the end of February Scripps left for Singapore. He checked in at the River View Hotel with Gerard Lowe, 32, a South African engineer, on March 8. *The same night* Lowe was killed. Scripps checked out the following day, muttering that Lowe had made a pass at him.

On March 11 Scripps flew to Thailand. Two days later *parts of a body* were found in Singapore harbour. Scripps flew on to Phuket on March 15 and en route struck up a conversation with Mrs Damude and her son. At Phuket they checked into neighbouring rooms at a seafront hotel.

When he was arrested at Changi airport on March 19 he was carrying Mrs Damude's credit card, watch and passport with Scripps's photograph where hers should be. They also found passports belonging to Darin Damude, Gerard Lowe, Simon Davis and John Martin. In his luggage were five pairs of handcuffs, an electric stun gun, hammers and knives. Days later Thai police found the dismembered bodies of the Damudes in shallow woodland graves.

Scripps on his wedding day in 1980 with Maria Arrellanos whom he met in Mexico when she was 17

Journalist makes news on his 100th birthday

BY EDWARD GORMAN

BRITAIN'S oldest working journalist, who handled news copy reporting the end of the *First* and Second World Wars, celebrated his 100th birthday yesterday by penning another weekly column for the *Aberdeen Press and Journal*.

George Fraser counts *Queen* Elizabeth the Queen Mother among his readers. He writes today of what he calls his "long, long literary road" spanning 78 years as a staff man in Aberdeen, including more than 35 as a columnist.

Mr Fraser, who was born in the reign of Victoria and who was recently invited to tea with the Queen Mother, describes a charmed career apparently unblemished either by dressing *downs* from editors or run-ins with his readers. "Suffice it say, then," Mr Fraser writes in his regular Saturday feature *One Man's Week*, "that horizons have been built up for me and it would be no exaggeration to say that the brightest of these have been limned in the opportunities provided me to string words together, decade after decade."

Staff at the *Press and Journal* say they hope he will continue contributing to the paper in his inimitable style for many years to come. Tom Forsyth, who edits his copy, which is still cast in longhand before being knocked out on a battered old typewriter, said Mr Fraser had always written with a flavour redolent of his upbringing.

Mr Fraser officially retired in 1961. A stationmaster's son, he first joined the *Aberdeen's Daily Journal* in 1917 after completing an MA at the city's university.

He never planned to go into journalism, but a chance meeting with a friend who worked at the paper landed him the job. "I saw the editor, Sir William Maxwell, and was offered the job on the spot."

Apart from a two-year spell in Liverpool he remained with the company throughout his career, including spells as chief sub-editor of the *Evening Express* from 1926 and editor by 1945.

At his home in Aberdeen he said yesterday: "There's no reason why I should stop work now. A lot of people seem to like what I do."

If you'd like to know more about Mr. Jack Daniel and his unique whiskey, write to the Jack Daniel Distillery, Lynchburg, Tennessee USA.

WATCH OUT FOR THESE MEN. They've caught bigger fish. Faced meaner foes. Handled tougher situations than most.

They're Tennessee whiskeymen, trading stories in Jack Daniel's old office here at the distillery. That's Bull Waggoner on the right, going on about the trophy bass he caught last spring. (We're still trying to account for its existence.) Some tall tales will fill this room before everyone's through. But when these men talk of how faithful we are to Jack Daniel's whiskey-making ways, there's no exaggeration.

JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Corporation acts after media is accused of having been manipulated over Mururoa nuclear tests

BBC may boycott coverage from Greenpeace ships

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

BBC journalists are expected to be banned from travelling on Greenpeace ships to cover the environmental pressure group's direct-action campaigns. The move is a further blow for Greenpeace which was criticised last month for making exaggerated claims in advertisements. The organisation was also forced to apologise for publishing misleading figures as part of its campaign against dumping the Brent Spar oil platform at sea.

Tony Hall, the corporation's managing director of news and current affairs, ordered a review of the BBC's relations with Greenpeace yesterday after claims that the group had exerted undue influence over media coverage of the French nuclear tests in the South Pacific, and of the proposed dumping of the Brent Spar in the North Sea last June.

Mr Hall said there was a myth about Greenpeace's power which needed to be exploded: "In the light of the triumphalism about Greenpeace manipulating the media, we need to be tougher. Greenpeace claims far too much for itself." He added that Greenpeace's public relations operations should be regarded as no different from those of any other organisation, government or vested interest, and should be treated with great caution by journalists.

Mr Hall was responding to accusations from Richard Titchen, a director of Greenpeace International, who claimed at an international conference of television news organisations in Berlin that companies were failing in their duty to the public by not providing balanced and objective coverage of issues highlighted by Greenpeace.

Greenpeace had been accused of manipulating the media by sending out its own television pictures of the build-up to the French nuclear tests in the Mururoa Atol for broadcasters to screen. As soon as the organisation's boats and television equipment was seized by the French Navy, broadcasters everywhere had virtually stopped covering the story, even though the nuclear tests were continuing. In their readiness to use Greenpeace's pictures and information and their unwillingness to spend their own money filming at Mururoa and the Brent Spar controversy, television companies had ignored major scientific issues and had failed to get behind the real story, Mr Titchen said.

"We are doing our job but the broadcasters are not doing theirs. How can we be accused of manipulating the media? A journalist's job is to report. If they are not prepared to invest the time and money that is not my problem. We make the news, and the broadcasters are forced to cover it."

George Negus, a senior presenter with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, said that broadcasters needed to stand up more to Greenpeace, which was no different from the hundreds of other organisations that wanted to brainwash journalists.

He said the Mururoa tests did not just raise questions about the environment, but also struck at the core of French colonialism and Polynesian independence.

ANDRE CAMARA

STOP
NUCLEAR
TESTING

Eight held as French fleet docks

EIGHT Greenpeace activists were being questioned last night after they were arrested close to a flotilla of French warships moored on the Thames (Leyla Linton writes). Four inflatable boats were also seized.

A police spokeswoman said: "Officers stopped vehicles containing people and inflatables in order to prevent a breach of the peace." However, Greenpeace claims that it regularly uses the river as a training site for its divers. The campaigners were taken to Limehouse police station in east London.

The eight French ships are on a goodwill visit to Britain and will remain at Docklands until Monday. Despite concern that their presence would lead to violent demonstrations against French nuclear testing at Mururoa atoll in the Pacific, fewer than 20 people turned up to protest. The flagship of the flotilla, *Thetis*, manoeuvred into her berth at West India Docks just before 4am, closely followed by two other vessels.

About a dozen CND supporters wearing black T-shirts showing an explosion and the word "non" shouted: "Stop Anglo-French nuclear collaboration." They tried to show a banner with the slogan "Nuclear Free World or Nuclear Free For All" but the French sailors were too busy navigating through the dock entrance to pay attention.

A protest was also staged outside the gates of Downing Street at lunchtime.

Rampton manager suspended

By A Staff Reporter

A SENIOR manager at Rampton top-security mental hospital has been suspended while police investigate claims that he used prostitutes to blackmail their clients.

Rodney Hurford, 51, allegedly used the women to lure men to a rented flat in Nottingham's red-light district where he used a hidden camera to film them having sex.

A report in *The Sun* yesterday claimed that Mr Hurford planned to force his victims to hand over £3,000 in return for "their" film.

Mr Hurford is deputy head of human resources at Rampton in north Nottinghamshire, which houses some of Britain's most dangerous killers. His annual salary is £25,000 and he is also paid £70,000 a year as an industrial relations "trouble shooter" for the Home Office.

In a statement yesterday, Rampton confirmed that because of the seriousness of the allegations, Mr Hurford had been suspended.

The Beatles: pop music's latest craze

By Joe Joseph

THE BEATLES are making the sort of comeback Frank Sinatra may dream about.

First there were the weeks of hype. Yesterday came the preview, as journalists saw the opening of *The Beatles Anthology*, a six-part ITV series trawled from archive material plus new interviews. It is being trumpeted as "the television event of the year".

The first episode will not be screened until November 26. Six days earlier is the release of three double CDs — also called *The Beatles Anthology* — featuring previously unreleased recordings. The group who broke up in 1970 may be number one again.

Andy Davis, of *Beatles Monthly* magazine, believes that much of volume one has been circulated already, but said: "Perhaps 100,000 people worldwide have heard the bootlegs. There are millions to whom all this will be new."

Leading article, page 21
Magazine, pages 8-49

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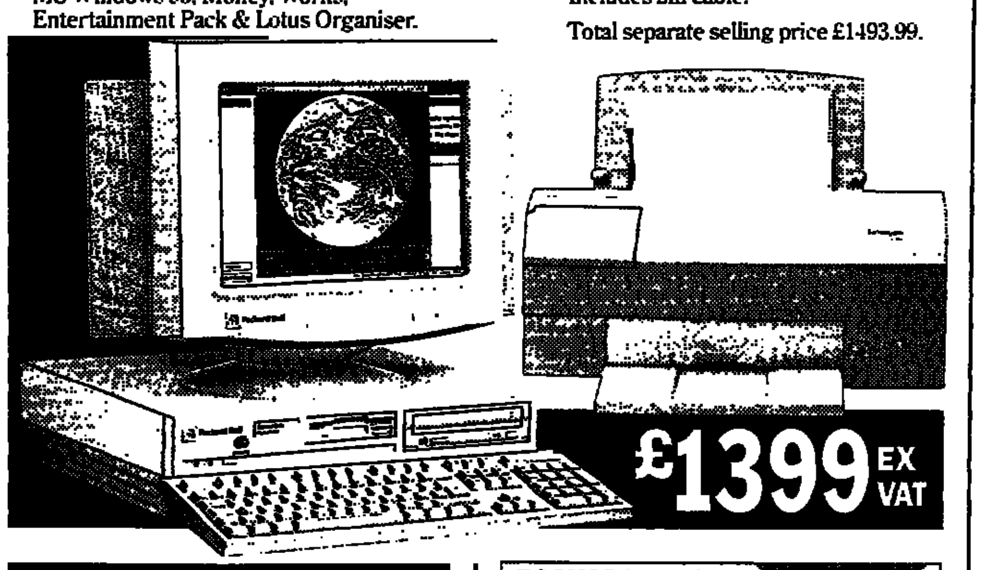

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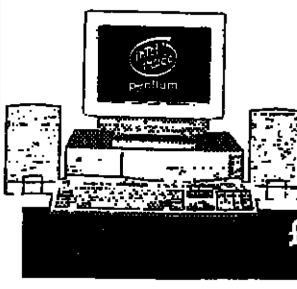

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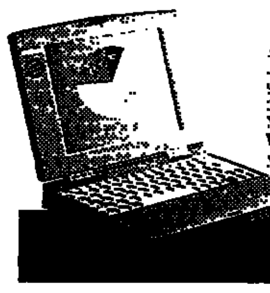

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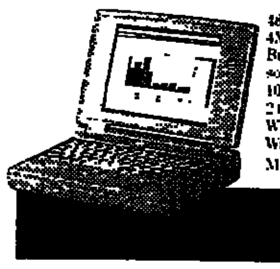

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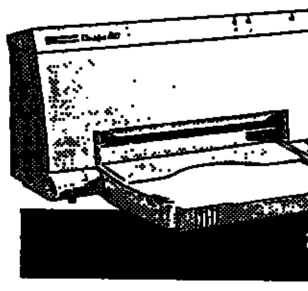

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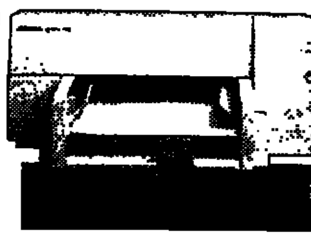

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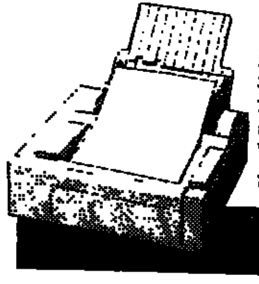

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Hooligans ruin heart of poet's favourite town

By Richard Duce

A WILTSHIRE town lauded by John Betjeman as one of the "most charming and unassuming in the West of England" has called a meeting to tackle juvenile crime.

Many women, young and old, are too frightened to walk the streets of Highworth after dark because of drunken teenagers who congregate in the park or on street corners. A Saturday night rarely passes without a shop window being smashed.

Matters came to a head last month when a choir from South Wales was invited to sing at a concert by the local choral and historical societies. While the choir enjoyed a bar snack in the Saracen's Head afterwards, their coach driver was assaulted.

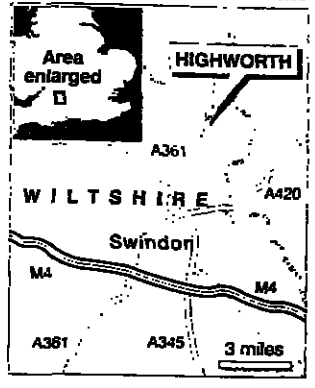
Town councillors are considering placing closed circuit television cameras in the Market Square. But before they take a decision a public meeting to discuss vandalism and violence has been called for by Janet Boddy, chairman of Highworth Historical Society.

She has already written to the Chief Constable of Wiltshire and is offering the suggestion that residents patrol the streets with mobile telephones to report any troublesome incidents.

"Don't think we are sniping at the police, we want to be the eyes and ears of the police," she said. "We do not suggest that we intervene or interfere, just observe and report to the police. I know several elderly ladies who certainly won't go out at night unless escorted and quite a few younger ones as well. The big problem is under-age drinking."

Mrs Boddy's meeting has been scheduled for December 9. The public will be able to address the council about the problem at its scheduled meeting on Tuesday.

David Lane, Highworth town clerk, said yesterday: "I do believe that we have got more than acceptable levels of vandalism. It is an old and well-preserved town." The council was spending thousands of pounds on replacing benches, trees, plants and notices that had been damaged by vandals.



'We always win', PC told man suffocating as five officers held him down

PAUL NEIL

Alison O'Brien, pictured with her son Richard, was delighted by the verdict

Police unlawfully killed Irishman, inquest jury rules

By Richard Duce

FIVE police officers could be prosecuted after an inquest jury decided yesterday that a man who suffered 31 injuries during his arrest had been unlawfully killed.

Sir Montague Levine, the coroner, said the constables involved in the arrest of Richard O'Brien, 37, showed an "appalling lack of instruction". The Director of Public Prosecutions will receive a report after the verdict at Southwark, southeast London, despite an earlier decision not to take action.

The inquest was told that Mr O'Brien, an Irishman who weighed 19½ stone, was racially abused by the officers when they arrested him in Walworth on suspicion of being drunk and disorderly after he attended a christening. Mr O'Brien, from east Dulwich fell to the ground and was restrained with his face to the pavement while PC Richard Ilett knelt on his back.

Mr O'Brien's 14-year-old son, also called Richard, was slapped and arrested by another officer after pleading with them to check on his father, who had shouted: "Let me up, let me up, I can't breathe. You win!" A police officer is said to have replied: "We always win."

O'Brien: died after being restrained

Alison O'Brien said one policeman shouted: "We can't get the big fat Paddy in", before another grabbed her husband by the hair or head and forced him into a van. He was pronounced dead at Walworth police station half an hour later.

Dr Vesna Djurovic, a pathologist, said that Mr O'Brien had 31 separate injuries, including cuts and bruising to his face, a dislodged tooth and fractured ribs. "In my opinion, he died as a result of postural asphyxia following a struggle against restraint."

PC Ilett said in his evidence that he had shown "nothing but concern" for Mr O'Brien. But Patrick O'Connor, QC, representing the family, held up a photograph of Mr O'Brien showing his bloodstained and battered face and asked the officer: "Does this show your concern?"

Mr O'Connor added: "You and your colleagues killed Mr O'Brien. Mr O'Brien died while you were restraining him on the ground and had your knee between his shoulders for five minutes."

PC Ilett replied: "I am not qualified to answer that." The other constables who restrained Mr O'Brien were Philip Palmer; James Barber; David Magnus and Gary Lockwood. After the verdict Sir Montague recommended that all police officers should have regular retraining courses on methods of restraint used in arrest.

Mrs O'Brien said after the inquest: "I'm delighted. We've got the truth after 18 months. It won't bring my husband back but he may be able to rest in peace."

Fish campaigners lose appeal against jail

By A Staff Reporter

TWO women who tried to stop an angling competition because they believed it was cruel to fish failed yesterday in their High Court attempt to escape jail sentences. Laura Nicol and Diana Selvanayagam were among a group of Animal Rights activists arrested when they threw sticks at anglers' lines and sounded horns during the competition in Albert Park, Middlesbrough.

The pair, who are in their 20s and from Newcastle upon Tyne, refused to be bound over to keep the peace at Cleveland magistrates and were each given 21 days in custody. John Knowles, their counsel, argued in the High Court that their actions did not constitute a breach of the peace because their behaviour was peaceful.

He said: "There was insufficient evidence that their conduct created a threat of violence." But Lord Justice Simon Brown, dismissing the appeal, said that any angler would be angered by someone throwing sticks at his line, and said: "Had the police not intervened violence must inevitably have erupted."

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John Major has created a dream factory and an all-purpose scapegoat

JAMES MORGAN

THE WITCH
CHRISTMAS

Members of the Unicorn Children's Theatre in London in rehearsal yesterday for *Pied Piper*. The theatre would have closed but for the £98.000 it received from the lottery to pay for safety works

Camelot's lucky formula proves to be national love of queueing

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

FORM an orderly line ... the secret of the National Lottery's success is the British love of queueing. Camelot, the organiser, is about to celebrate its first anniversary with weekly sales of lottery tickets at £65 million, compared with early estimates of £14 million to £35 million.

David Rigg, director of communications for Camelot, said: "One reason why we got our forecasts so wrong was that we seriously underestimated the willingness of the British public to stand in queues." The lottery celebrates its first anniversary on Tuesday, having created more than 100 millionaires and notched up sales of £4.4 billion, exceeding all forecasts.

By today Camelot hopes to have sold 3.3 billion £1 tickets for its weekly draw and 1.1 billion £1 Instants scratchcards. It also expects to have paid out £2.15 billion in prizes and to have handed £1.22 billion to the five bodies responsible for distributing lottery grants to the good causes of the arts, sport, national heritage, charities and the millennium celebrations.

Camelot expects sales to reach £32 billion during its seven-year licence. The company is planning to launch a second on-line game with a midweek draw in the next year or so, which may be televised.

Audiences for the Saturday evening lottery draw on BBC1, hosted by Anthea Turner, have stabilised at between 11 and 13 million from a peak of 20 million. The company may launch a television game show based on scratchcards.

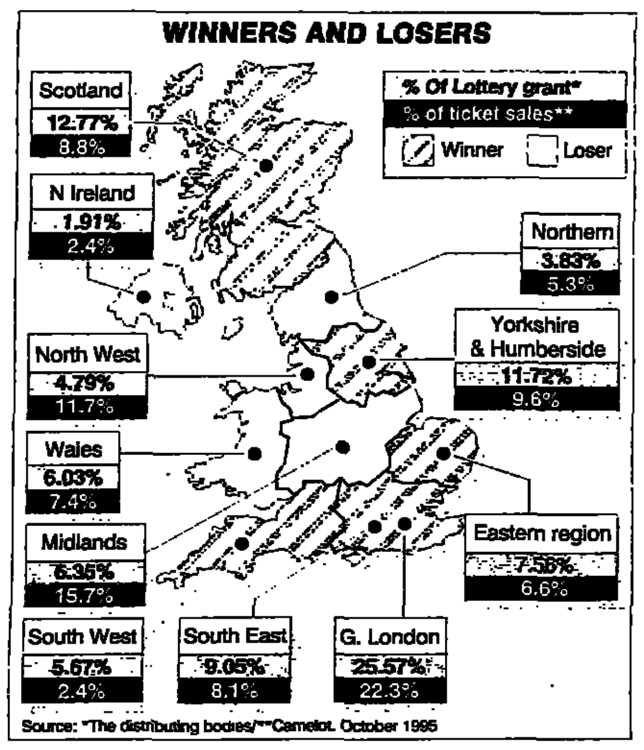
Members of the Camelot consortium are also considering bidding for the contract to run lotteries in other countries. In the meantime Camelot is cashing in on its brand name with a range of lottery-related merchandise, ranging from key-rings to champagne.

But the lottery's success has been criticised by charities, which have seen their donations fall as ticket sales have risen. Shops and pools companies also say their income has been reduced.

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations, which represents 650 groups, has estimated that its members are facing a shortfall as high as £300 million in the game's first year. The Council of Churches of Britain and Ireland has said the lottery threatens to unleash a gambling epidemic, affecting the poor and the vulnerable.

A survey published this week by Mintel, a market research company, identified high-spending among people who were potentially least able to afford it. Meanwhile the award of huge grants to apparently "well-off" causes in London and the South has alienated many people who originally believed in the lottery's professed aim of helping "good causes".

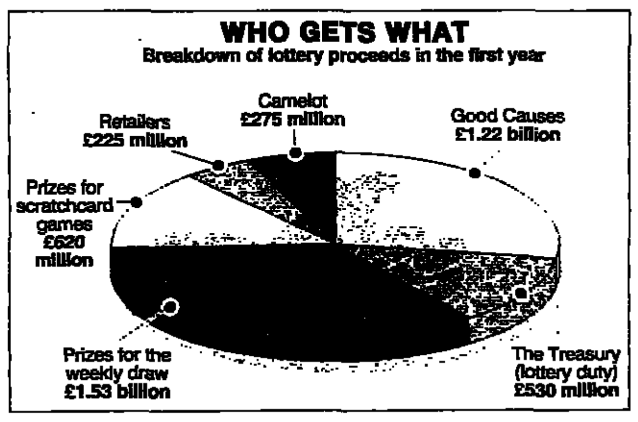
WINNERS AND LOSERS



Source: *The distributing bodies/**Camelot. October 1995

WHO GETS WHAT

Breakdown of lottery proceeds in the first year



Britain left in a spin by first year of lottery fever

By Joe Joseph

CAN it be only a year since Noel Edmonds coined the immortal — and, some might say, prescient — phrase: "Now we will have a countdown to the activation of the balls"? Or since the name Anthea Turner meant more to her mother than it did to TV executives with a spare £1 million?

How our lives have changed since we succumbed to a little gamble, what George Orwell, in *The Road to Wigan Pier*, termed "the cheapest of luxuries". We have become a nation of dreamers: some would call us foolish fantasisers. The Government warned us we might get rich, but it did not warn us we might also grow demented with gold fever.

People stay at home on Saturday nights to watch the magic numbers drop. Those forced to go out are kept in touch by a network of self-appointed informants. At Sainsbury's on a Saturday night, the winning numbers are trumpeted over the Tannoy system. On the London Underground, station managers might be lackadaisical about telling you which train is next, but are happy to flash the winning numbers on the destination indicators.

Scratchcards have become "the UK's largest impulse purchase brand", according to Camelot, the lottery operator, and people are as likely to receive a clutch of cards for a birthday present as drink or flowers.

The lottery has so transformed our lives that it will almost certainly be the one thing John Major's Government will be remembered for. He has not only engineered a dream factory, he has also created a useful national scapegoat. We now blame the lottery for everything: too few hospitals; too much gambling; a drop in church attendance; too much opera; too little opera.

For newspapers the lottery is heaven sent. News editors no longer fret about empty spaces: there is always a lottery story. "Mother of three who killed her children was depressed over lottery", and "£10,000 lottery ticket snatched" were two recent examples.

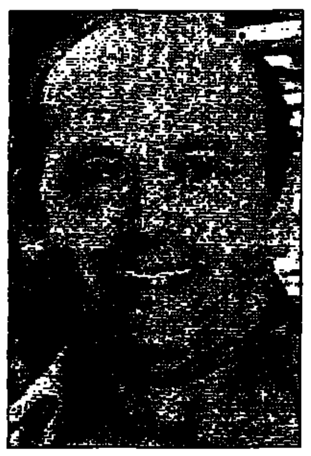
The resourceful *Sun* found a way to combine its two great passions — the lottery and near-naked photos of Pamela Anderson. Under the headline "Pamelot" it invited readers to have a flutter on six numbers apparently handpicked by the "*Baywatch* stunner". These were "36 — her most vital statistic: 5 — the number of times Pam and hubby Tommy Lee made love their first night; 28 — her age; 19 — her wedding day; 15 — Pam's pre-Lee toll of lovers; and 1, because she will always be No 1 with us".

People sniggered at Harold Macmillan, calling him "Tic-Tac-Mac", when he launched Premium Bonds 40 years ago. But we are all gamblers now. We do not care that Ladbrokes likens the chances of winning to Elvis landing a UFO on top of the Loch Ness monster. The British spend more on the lottery than on bread. Mothers are accused of moving from the Post Office window where they collect their child benefit to the National Lottery window where they spend it.

Mintel, the market researchers, say 21 per cent of lottery players are new to gambling: women and younger punters are being drawn into an area traditionally dominated by male skilled manual workers. Two women were recently admitted to hospital diagnosed as suffering from "lottomania".

The 4,000 lottery computer terminals sited in Post Offices are so besieged that the layouts of some branches are being redesigned so that regular customers can reach the counters for stamps and TV licences. Corner shops and confectioners with lottery machines have rejoiced at the extra customers flooding through their doors.

So much is being spent on the National Lottery that economists are blaming it for the fall in retail sales. The Treasury is shrinking its forecasts for VAT revenue as a result, because lottery tickets — which account for 4 per cent of British retail sales — do not attract VAT.



Mel Eddison, already a millionaire, won £2.5m

Farmer is jailed for killing poacher

By A Staff Reporter

A FARMER who killed a poacher on his land was jailed yesterday for 18 months. A jury had taken almost seven hours to find Douglas Bailes guilty of manslaughter by a majority verdict.

Teesside Crown Court was told that Bailes, 31, had been plagued by poachers hunting rabbits on his 600-acre Cole Hill Farm, in Elwick, County Durham. When he saw torchlights one night in January, he went out armed with a double-barrelled shotgun.

He said he was worried that the intruders might frighten his pregnant sheep, and he took his gun in case he needed to shoot a dog. In the darkness he came across Martin Vout, a poacher, climbing a fence. Bailes tried to grab the man and then swung his loaded weapon, which went off. Vout, a father-of-two from Murton, Seaham, died instantly from head wounds.

Bailes hid the gun and left his victim in the field. Police and ambulance teams were called later after he contacted his father about the incident. Bailes told the court: "I heard a thud but didn't know the gun had fired until I caught hold of him.

"I know it was wrong but at the time I was frightened for my own safety and it was a split-second decision. I wanted to stop and apprehend him."

He was found guilty by a 10-1 verdict. One jury member retired ill. Bailes stood quietly as Mr Justice Poole passed sentence. His distraught wife and family were helped from the public gallery.

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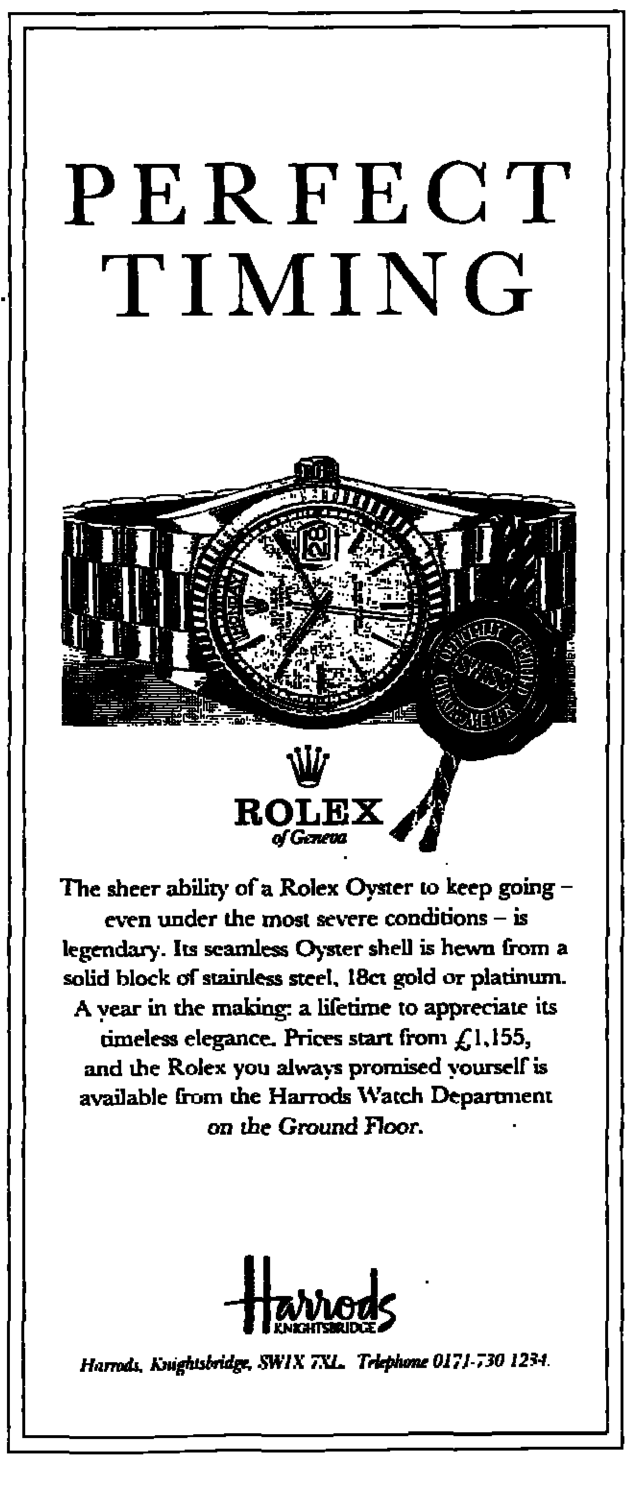
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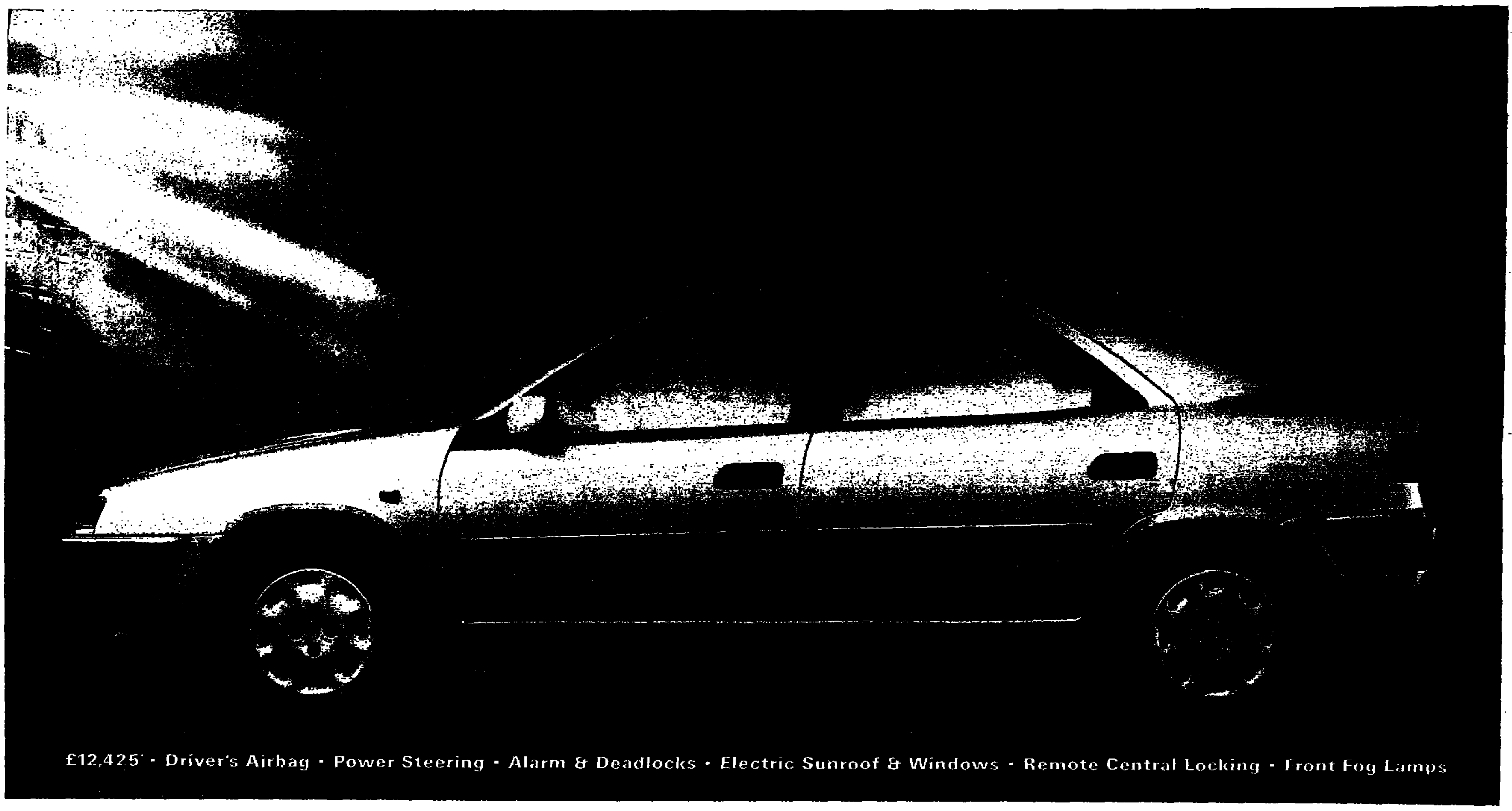

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Teaching methods 'play a bigger role in education standards' after early years

IAN McCARNEY

Kathryn Gray, a part-time assistant, helping at Alderman Jacobs Primary School

Inspectors say class size makes little difference

By John O'Leary, education editor

THE main political parties redrew battle lines on the key educational issue of class sizes yesterday when school inspectors reported that large teaching groups make no difference to learning beyond the age of seven.

An analysis of 18,000 school inspections found no clear link between the size of classes and the quality of education, rating teaching methods and classroom organisation as more significant. Only in the first years of schooling were small classes beneficial.

Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, said the study showed that the cost of small reductions in class sizes could not be justified beyond the early years. Even in infant schools, the employment of more classroom assistants might give better value than an extra teacher.

Ministers seized on the report as evidence that the gradual rise in class sizes throughout this decade has not been damaging. In many primary schools class sizes are above 30, and in some they are over 40.

But Labour insisted that the findings vindicated its proposed limit of 30 pupils per class for children aged five to seven.

Ofsted said the cost of implementing Labour's policy would be at least three times the party's estimate of £60 million. But Labour said extra funding would be directed at schools with the biggest classes and had been carefully calculated with "real education authorities".

Mr Woodhead conceded that many would remain unconvinced by the findings. But he said: "I very much hope the report will be read by head teachers and governors up and down the land, because they need to think about how best to use their resources."

The report says it is common sense that "teaching basic skills of literacy and numeracy is likely to be more effective when a teacher can devote a significant amount of attention to individual children". But after the early years, it may prove more cost-effective to give teachers longer to prepare lessons or to appoint more classroom assistants, it said.

Woodhead: hopes heads will take note

Effective teaching was found in both small and large classes, the report says. The components included high expectations of pupils, good planning, enthusiasm and telling pupils of their progress.

Mr Woodhead said he accepted that class sizes could not "go on rising ad infinitum" without damaging the quality of education. But he said it was impossible to set an upper limit because subjects and school circumstances varied too widely.

The response from teaching unions and local education authorities was universally hostile. Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said Ofsted's report compromised its independence and it now risked being seen as the "Government's poodle".

The National Association of Primary Education said average state school classes had risen by between two and five pupils this term. Chris Davis, the association chairman, said his members were reporting rises at all ages as a result of the Government's squeeze on local authority spending.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The hawk who downed a dove

Yigal Amir

Top foreign correspondents Marie Colvin and Jon Swain investigate the events that led to the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin

The Sunday Times tomorrow

Primary school with an adult for every 8 pupils

By David Charter, education correspondent

FIFTY volunteers and ten paid assistants ensure that children at Alderman Jacobs Primary School are lavished with personal attention. While teachers have an average of 32 children in each class, the extra help from parents and part-timers means there is often an adult for every eight pupils.

Jonathan Spibey, acting head of the school in Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire, said his philosophy was: "The more adults in the room, the better".

Assistants are paid about a quarter of a teacher's salary. Mr Spibey said the school chose a balance between teachers, assistants and volunteers to gave it manageable class sizes with several adults in the room.

The 630-pupil school once employed just two full-time assistants but, when they retired, decided to build up a team of ten flexible part-timers who each works 14 hours a week.

Mr Spibey said: "All our non-teacher helpers are superb people. We don't treat the assistants as underdogs in any way, but they are always directed totally by the teacher in charge. They will supervise groups and listen to reading but they are not left on their own with a whole class.

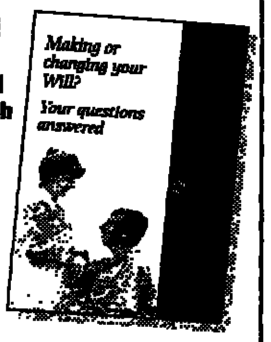
"It is not a case of using them as cheap teachers. The more help we can get, the better the quality of the lesson."

Several of the paid assistants are trained nurses, one is a secretary who puts her skills to use helping children with computers, and two others have art and design qualifications.

The Government is piloting a specialist teacher assistant certificate to give a new status to classroom helpers at infant level. Will Swann, chairman of the course at the Open University, said it was a year-long programme to work under the direction of a teacher.

He said: "This has nothing to do with a Mum's Army — that was an idea about a non-graduate route to teaching. This is about training classroom assistants.

"We want to give them more knowledge about how children learn and develop a range of skills. Our aim is to make people more skilled in working with individuals and groups of children, although we do not do anything on working with the whole class."



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Two-minute standstill to mark Armistice is revived after almost 60 years

'Big Ben seemed to boom louder than ever before'

By Bill Frost

THE two minutes' silence, which the Royal British Legion hopes will bring Britain to a standstill this morning, was introduced by the government of David Lloyd George. It was first observed in 1920 and was upheld until the outbreak of the Second World War.

When peace was declared Remembrance Day was moved to the nearest Sunday to November 11 but the silence was not revived.

The 75th anniversary of this piece of national theatre coincides with a determined effort by the Royal British Legion to ensure that those who fell are never forgotten. Members feared that memories were fading and with them respect for those who never came home. A Cenotaph on a temporary platform was one of the features of the peace procession on the first anniversary of the armistice in 1919. It was decided to make it a permanent feature on Whitehall.

When Sir Edward Lutyens's simple, massive Cenotaph, which resisted the architectural temptations of nymphs and wreaths, was unveiled by the King on November 11, 1920, the Remembrance Day ceremony, much as it is today, began.

In those days, less constrained by the fear of emotion or cynical indifference, the occasion was perhaps easier to describe. "The first thundering stroke of Big Ben boomed out louder, it seemed, than ever one had heard it, even in the stillness of dawn," *The Times* recorded. "At this high and solemn moment, all noise ceased. Men and women disciplined their bodies so that for two full minutes scarcely a finger moved . . ."

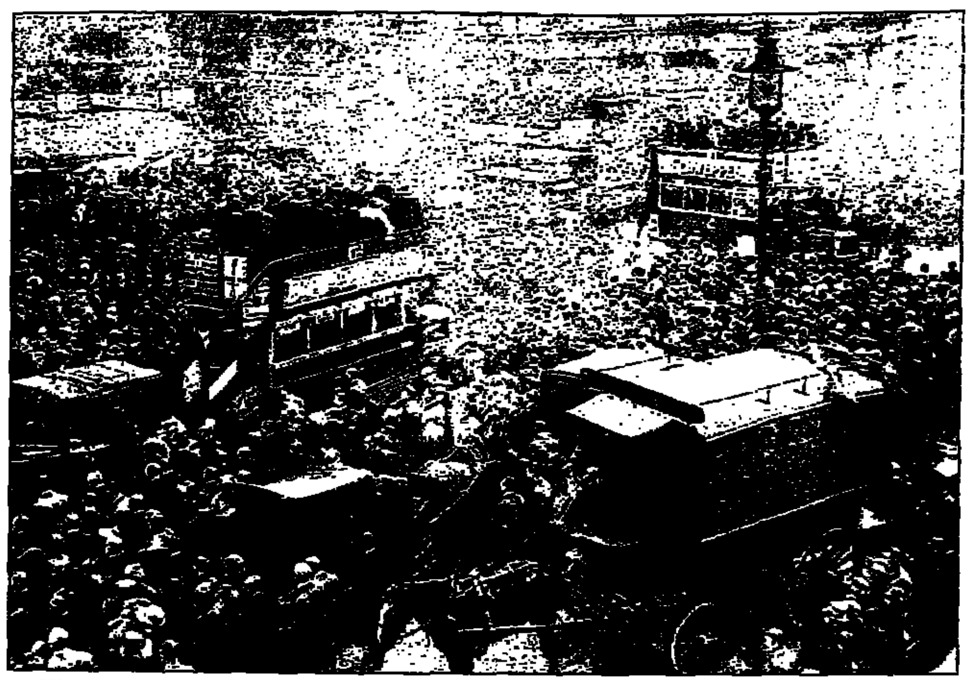
In 1920 crowds stood silent in the streets all over the country, much as the Royal British Legion hopes they will this morning. But even in the immediate aftermath of the First World War some people in London society ignored the mournful theatre of Armistice Day in favour of "Victory balls" at the capital's most expensive hotels and the Albert Hall.

To the fury of those who had lost loved ones or returned wounded, they ate, drank and danced while the rest of the nation mourned the fallen. Eventually, in the face of furious pressure from the Church of England, the Victory balls were abandoned in 1925.

Most people's determination to unite on Remembrance Sunday, however, remained undimmed until the mid-1960s when, against the backdrop of social change, patriotism became unfashionable. Little altered in the 1970s when indifference took over from student radicalism.

However, the huge public support for the VE and VJ-Day 50th anniversary commemorations this year marked another sharp change in public attitudes and the Royal British Legion decided the time was ripe to reintroduce the two minutes' silence.

Magnus Linklater, page 20



Thousands in Piccadilly stand for the first silence at 11am on November 11, 1920

An Army bomb disposal officer who spent 31 hours defusing a German Second World War bomb that threatened the homes of 4,000 people on the island of Portland has been awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal for courage "of the very highest order". Captain Michael Lobb of the Corps of Royal Engineers was one of more than 140 servicemen and women awarded the medal.

Roll of honour, page 23

Credo

Many paths on our quest for common goal

Indarjit Singh

BRITAIN'S 500,000 Sikhs have this week been celebrating the birthday of Guru Nanak. For Sikhs it is a little like Christmas, but without the shopping and presents. Gurdwaras (temples) have vied with each other for the best speakers and musicians to provide the right sense of occasion. In Southall, Birmingham and other centres of Sikh population, processions took to the streets to give the day a colourful and festive atmosphere in keeping with the celebrations in India.

This year, a large celebration in the Birmingham City Council chamber was typical of increasing efforts to make the occasion more open to the wider community. It is a move that is particularly welcome, for the main thrust of Guru Nanak's teachings is that true religion has no boundaries. The Guru taught that in God's eyes "there is neither Hindu nor Muslim" and in the same sentiment, neither Sikh, Christian nor Jew, and that God is not interested in religious labels, but in the way we conduct ourselves.

The Guru taught that our different religions were simply different paths on our journey on the mountain of truth. The different terrain at the foothills becomes less evident once we begin to climb and, as we reach higher, our paths frequently merge and mingle.

This recognition of the viability of other paths forms the basis for Sikhism's strong emphasis on religious tolerance and the need for inter-faith dialogue. Sikh belief that no one religion has a monopoly of truth is further underlined in the Sikh holy Granth, which contains writings of Hindu and Muslim saints as well as those of the Sikh gurus.

Guru Nanak was frank in his discussions with different religious sects and open in his criticism of ritual and superstitious practices that often passed as religion. But despite his frankness, he was loved by all for his honesty and sincerity.

The essence of Guru Nanak's religious philosophy is contained in his composition, the "Japji Sahib". In beautiful poetry the Guru reminds us of the logical attributes of God, the source of all creation, who is not only far greater than we comprehend, but also greater than our ability to comprehend. The composition goes on to remind us that, though we can never understand God's ultimate truth, we can move in its direction — the "gurmukh" direction — through responsible living, the pursuit of knowledge, spiritual endeavour and the courageous use of challenge and opportunity.

While the finer points of the Guru's spiritual message teachings will receive some mention in the gurpurb celebration, the congregations in the gurdwaras and at other celebrations will in the main listen to the many stories of Guru Nanak's kindness, concern for the suffering and his deep insight into human behaviour; stories to recharge spiritual batteries that have now become the heritage of us all.

☐ *Indarjit Singh is Editor of the* Sikh Messenger

Carey hails success of women's ordination

THE Archbishop of Canterbury told a Portuguese newspaper yesterday that the controversial decision by the Anglican Church to ordain women priests was a success and far fewer clergymen had left the Church than feared.

"People predicted 4,000 clergymen would leave the Church of England. But just 250 left," Dr George Carey told the *Independente*. "We have ordained 1,500 women. So I believe the choice was positive." Dr Carey has been making the first official visit by the head of the Anglican Church to Roman Catholic Portugal. He said Church of England unity with Lutheran churches in Nordic and Baltic states was expected by 1997. "This will transform us into the biggest Christian confessional body in northern Europe."

At Your Service, Weekend, page 13

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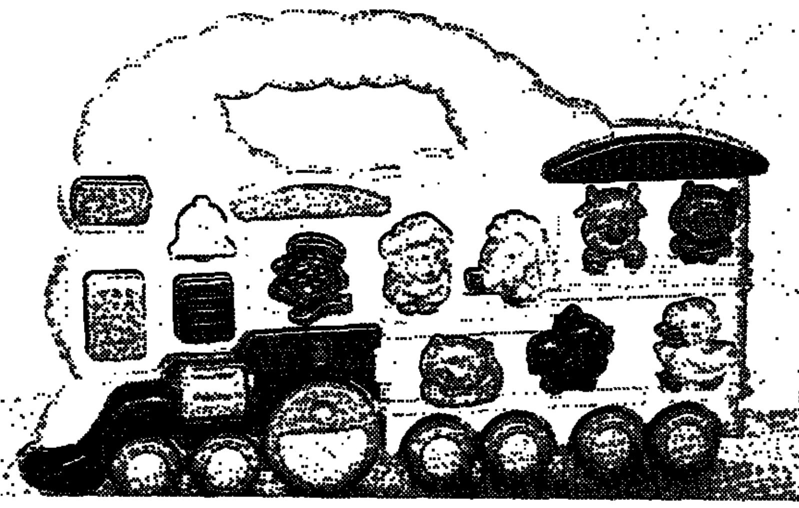

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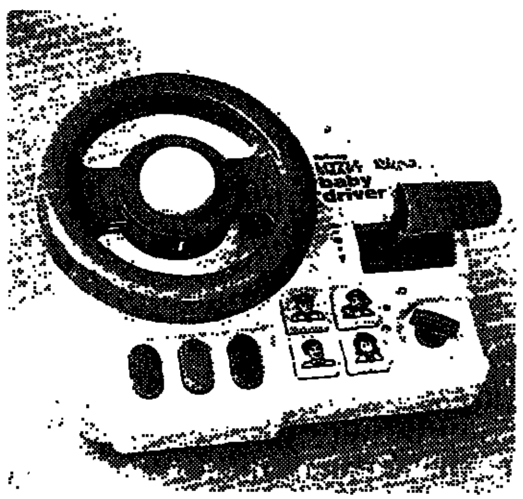

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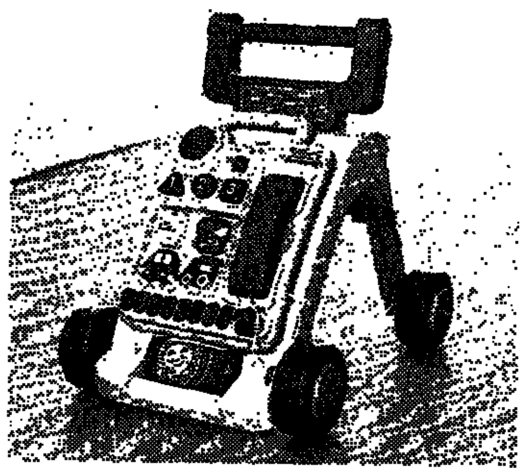

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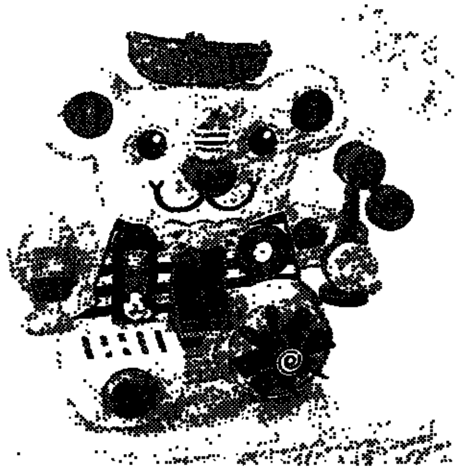

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Military regime's actions are 'an extension of a dictator's entrenched madness'

Writer's death on gallows marks dawn of dark age

By Sam Kiley, Africa Correspondent

THE execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogoni human rights activists on trumped-up murder charges marks the dawn of a new dark age for Nigerians living under an already brutal military regime. Mr Saro-Wiwa was executed while his son, Ken Wiwa, was in Auckland pleading with Commonwealth heads of government to save his father's life.

Extrajudicial executions, particularly in Mr Saro-Wiwa's homeland around Port Harcourt, capital of the Rivers State, have been commonplace in the two years since General Sani Abacha seized power in a bloodless coup. However, according to Femi Falan, Mr Saro-Wiwa's close friend as well as his lawyer, the "judicial" execution of nine members of the non-violent Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni Peoples (Mosop) is "an extension of an already entrenched madness under a dictatorship".

General Abacha's regime has increasingly relied on extreme methods to contain rising crime and a groundswell of pro-democracy sentiment since the July 1993 elections. These are widely believed to have been won by Chief Moshood Abiola, who has been in detention without trial since early 1994.

Civilian regimes in Nigeria have traditionally been reluctant to carry out death sentences handed down by courts, and many prisoners awaiting execution have been in jail for up to 20 years. In 1994, however, at least 100 people were publicly executed by firing squad, often in front of large crowds gathered in stadiums or racecourses. Several of these macabre events have been televised.

In one case, one of 38 prisoners shot in Enugu, in the southeast, survived. When he begged for water soldiers threw him on to the lorry carrying away the corpses and he was never seen again. This year General Abacha has used the death sentence to try to silence calls for democracy from some of Nigeria's most eminent figures. General Olusegun Obasanjo, the only Nigerian military head of state to have handed over to civilian authorities peacefully, was sentenced to death with 39 other alleged coup plotters. A former member of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons' Group that went to apartheid South Africa, he and his colleagues were saved when General Abacha bowed to international pressure and commuted their sentences.

In Ogoniland, where Shell, the Anglo-Dutch oil conglomerate, had been the target of protracted legal action by Mr Saro-Wiwa and his associates over environmental damage and the non-payment of mineral royalties, the suffering has been most acute.

"Ogoniland is now a zone of military occupation. Nobody can move for fear of being shot by the army," said Deebii Mwaido, Mr Saro-Wiwa's former personal assistant.

In 1992 the Ogoni, who number only about half a million, published a *Bill of Rights* that demanded back rent for the Shell oil wells and self-determination. It was this desire to secede which made them and Mr Saro-Wiwa, their leader, the targets of General Abacha's soldiers. The spectre of secession from central government led to the 1967 Biafran War when the Ibo demanded their own state. A million people died in that conflict, most from starvation.

In addition to their random shooting of men, women and children, troops routinely flog youths. The soldiers are also often encouraged by senior officers to rape Ogoni women and loot villages. One teenage victim, an orphan, told investigators from Human Rights Watch-Africa how soldiers "kicked me and hit my little sister's mouth with a wooden stick . . . One soldier held each of my legs. Then each of the soldiers took turns. I was lying unconscious in a pool of blood when they left."

The executions of Mr Saro-Wiwa and his Mosop colleagues are bound to lead to bloodshed in Ogoniland, where Shell abandoned its operations 18 months ago because of insecurity and violence in the area.

Mr Falana said: "No one will be able to sleep soundly in the area for many months to come, and any one thinking they will be able to pump oil again is having a serious dream."

Leading article, page 21

Wiwa: was in Auckland pleading for his father

86 executed this year

BEFORE yesterday, at least 86 people were known to have been executed this year in Nigeria — all in public and by firing squad (Our Foreign Staff writes). Most were convicted by Robbery and Firearms Tribunals, which are outside the normal judicial system, says Amnesty International. The courts allow no right of appeal, contravening the human rights standards to which Nigeria is committed.

Tom Ikimi, the Nigerian Foreign Minister, after leaving the Commonwealth conference in New Zealand yesterday. He insisted that Ken Saro-Wiwa's conviction had been for murder and not for his political views

Struggle for Ogoni homeland spawns accusations of genocide

From James Jukwey
in Lagos

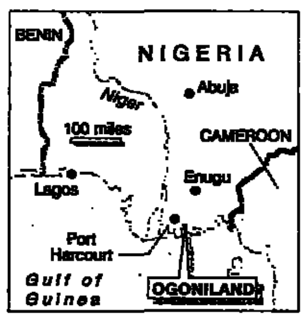
THE execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa has its roots in a campaign by the small Ogoni tribe to reclaim their homeland from the Nigerian Goverment and the oil giant Shell. Instead of winning the Ogoni self-determination, the struggle has caused bloodshed and division.

Mr Saro-Wiwa, leader of the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni Peoples and eight members were sentenced to death last week over the murder of pro-government Ogoni chiefs. The sentences were ratified on Wednesday.

The movement sprang up five years ago to demand self-determination for the 500,000 people of Ogoniland, which lies among the creeks of the Niger delta. It also wanted compensation from Shell, which struck oil there in 1954. The campaign has focused on the devastation its members say has been caused by years of exploitation of crude oil.

In 1992 the group issued the Ogoni Bill of Rights, and gave oil firms 30 days to pay back rents, royalties and compensation for ecological damage.

The Ogonis were united in their demands until the presidential elections in 1993, said Tayo Lukula, a journalist based in Port Harcourt. Then some radical members led by Mr Saro-Wiwa urged an electoral boycott to show they were serious about self-determination. "The boycott of the election was overwhelming, but some leaders resigned," said Mr Lukula. Since then violence has been rife in the area. A security task force is accused by the movement of committing genocide but the authorities say the force is there to maintain peace.



☐ Auckland: Chief Tom Ikimi, Nigeria's Foreign Minister, attacked critics of his country's human rights record, saying he had not come to the Commonwealth conference for an "inquisition". Some Commonwealth states executed people for the mere possession of drugs or chopped off hands for theft, he added.

Literary giant with common touch

By Daniel Johnson
Literary Editor

THE execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa is a terrible blow, not only for the cause of the Ogoni minority which he championed, but also for Nigerian and African literature.

He made his name as a writer with a brilliant novel about the Biafran War. *Sozaboy: A Novel in Rotten English* was published under his own imprint, Saros International, which he set up with the profits from his grocery business partly to ensure that his own works would not be silenced.

Mr Saro-Wiwa contributed to virtually every branch of literature: plays, novels, poetry, autobiography and essays. But this highly educated intellectual was actually best known in Nigeria — and most feared by its military Government — as the scriptwriter of the country's most popular soap opera.

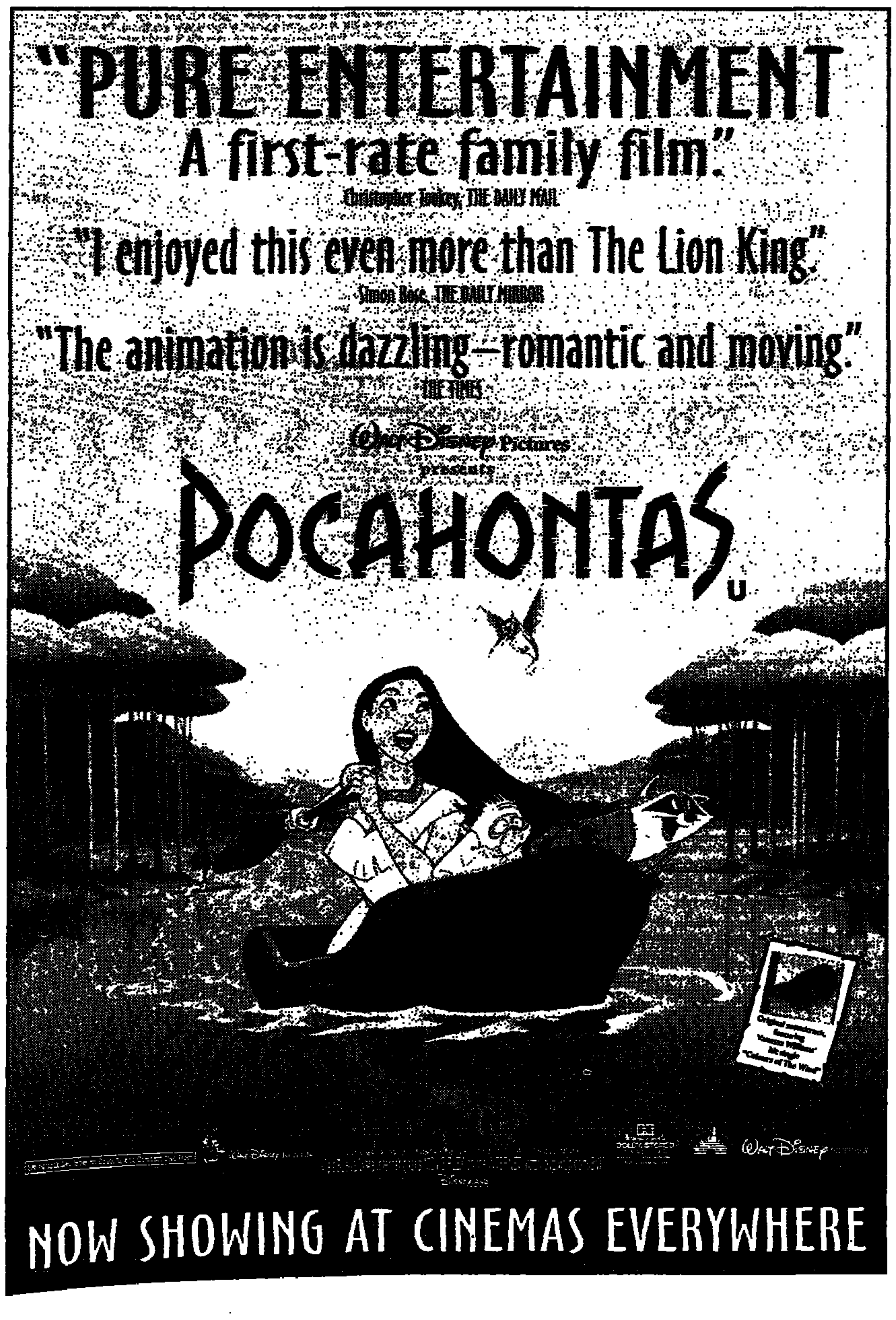
***Basi & Co*, which was watched by a third of the 100 million Nigerians, combined cheerful entertainment with sharp political satire. It depicted corruption and intimidation with a light touch, never losing contact with the man in the street. Basi, the anti-hero, is a con man surrounded by other crooks, profiteers and misfits, and Nigerians recognised themselves and their masters in his milieu.**

Once Mr Saro-Wiwa turned from satire to direct political action on behalf of the Ogoni two years ago, the authorities seized their chance to imprison him. An international campaign, led by *The Times*, helped to secure his release.

Those who met Mr Saro-Wiwa describe him as a warm, good-humoured, mercurial figure.

He was nominated for the Nobel Prize, but recognition abroad of the kind enjoyed by his fellow Nigerian, Wole Soyinka, eluded him in his lifetime.

Obituary, page 23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Echoes of Thatcher in attack on 'fundamentally inaccurate' nuclear condemnation

Major refuses to sign anti-French statement

From Nicholas Wood, Chief Political Correspondent, in Auckland

JOHN MAJOR yesterday angrily disowned a Commonwealth statement on French nuclear tests as he unveiled a tough new approach to international negotiations.

In a move reminiscent of Margaret Thatcher at her most implacable, the Prime Minister denounced the text issued at the Commonwealth conference in Auckland as "plain wrong" and released his own version setting out Britain's position.

The move caused consternation because earlier in the day the heads of government had appeared to be inching towards a compromise acceptable to all 52 member states. An initial discussion had gone smoothly with not even Paul Keating, the outspoken Australian Prime Minister, attacking Britain over its refusal to condemn the recent tests at Mururoa atoll.

Judging from the Commonwealth text, Mr Major appeared to have scored a modest negotiating triumph. France was not named, and the statement noted only that the "overwhelming majority" of leaders condemned the current programme. This seemed to meet Mr Major's insistence that he would not be associated with condemnation of France. But in a response which prompted suggestions that he was picking a fight, the Prime Minister strode from the conference chamber to repudiate the outcome of hours of painstaking drafting. He declared to reporters: "What they have got in their statement is fundamentally inaccurate, intellectually inconsistent and unbalanced. I have not signed up to that and they know that.

"I have made it perfectly clear I think the views expressed by our Commonwealth colleagues are just plain wrong, just plain wrong [*sic*]. That has been my position right the way through and it remains my decision now."

Paragraph five of the six-paragraph "Statement on Disarmament" proved the stumbling block. It said: "Heads of government noted the widespread anger caused by the current programme of nuclear weapon tests. The overwhelming majority of heads of government condemned this continued nuclear testing, which was inconsistent with the undertaking given by the nuclear weapon states to exercise utmost restraint so not to affect the negotiations for the conclusion of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in 1996. These heads of government urge the immediate cessation of such testing."

British officials said the second sentence gave the impression that the tests would hold up agreement. In fact, they would have the opposite effect, clearing the way for France to sign, safe in the knowledge that its deterrent was in working order.

Mr Major put out his own document, following the example of his predecessor, who at the 1989 Commonwealth Conference in Malaysia issued a dissenting statement on South African sanctions.

Thatcher: set precedent for solo dissent

John Major listens with President Masire of Botswana, left, Owen Seymour, the Prime Minister of Barbados, and President Moi of Kenya to a speech in Auckland yesterday

Dining out for the envoy from Paris

From Nicholas Wood and Michael Munro in Auckland

JACQUES LE BLANC, the French Ambassador to New Zealand, was refused entry to a luncheon in Auckland yesterday hosted by Chief Emeka Anyouku, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, after turning up uninvited.

M Le Blanc was furious after being turned back by security guards while the Chinese Ambassador was allowed to enter. He identified himself but was unable to produce an invitation to the function, which followed the official opening of the Commonwealth conference.

The gathering included a number of delegation heads, officials, diplomats and journalists. Security staff were under orders to admit only those with invitations, but M Le Blanc believed a standing invitation had been extended to the diplomatic corps.

Keating apologises to Prime Minister over Pacific dispute

By Nicholas Wood

PAUL KEATING, the Australian Prime Minister, apologised yesterday to John Major over his outspoken criticism of Britain's refusal to join in the condemnation of French nuclear tests in the South Pacific.

He offered the olive branch before the Prime Minister repudiated the Commonwealth statement on disarmament. Mr Keating approached Mr Major before the opening session of the summit in Auckland and said he had been misreported. He blamed media exaggeration and distortion for the acrimony over the dispute over the tests.

Mr Major accepted the apology and later, as Commonwealth leaders discussed the tests, Mr Keating took a more conciliatory line, highlighting areas of agreement with Britain and reserving his spleen for the French.

However, as a mark of Mr Major's irritation with the Australian leader for his brash comment about Britain's stance, British officials have been playing a cat-and-mouse game over Mr Keating's request for a formal meeting with the Prime Minister. Mr Major has relented and said he would be happy to talk at the weekend.

Mr Keating upset the Prime Minister by saying he runs conferences in a "schoolmarmish" way and needed a "little slap with the ruler" to bring him to his senses over the tests. He also joked about the Queen a few days before the conference, recalling the occasion in 1992 when he put his arm around her waist. "The last time there was any media interest in Australia was after that time I tweaked the royal bra strap," he said in a newspaper interview.

Mr Major's associates were delighted by the apology. It is understood Mr Keating is seeking Britain's support to secure a seat on the United Nations Security Council.

Keating: his views were 'distorted by the press'

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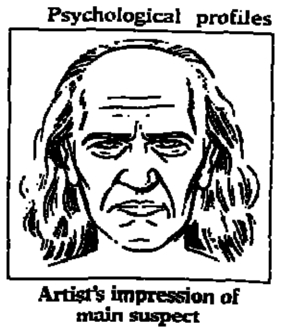
Aristocracy under scrutiny as more Nissans go missing on mainland

Yard links Almera heist to notorious 'Mr. Big'

THE GOVERNMENT has been left reeling after reports that hundreds of Nissan Almera disappearances in Britain over the last few days are linked to the wealthy and well-to-do.

Scotland Yard believe that the mastermind behind the recent multimillion pound off shore heist is the notorious Mr.Big, a multi-millionaire megalomaniac who is wanted by INTERPOL for a string of large scale crimes across Europe. Evidence suggests that after the heist he recruited friends in high places to carry on the Nissan rustling here in the UK.

Psychological profiles of the perpetrators support this theory, and suggest that the nabbers are members of the jet set. A police spokesman told reporters 'They are wealthy, powerful and used to the very best things in life'.


Artist's impression of main suspect

Police have released an artist's impression of Mr. Big whose true identity and whereabouts are unknown. He has long greying hair, blue eyes, a long pointed nose and an olive complexion. He was last seen in Monte Carlo in 1987.

The motive behind the mysterious disappearances is still unclear, although police have speculated that it may be something to do with the Almera's highly innovative Multilink Beam Suspension system which Nissan developed for their top of the range executive car, the QX.

Nissan have stressed that new Almeras are still readily available from a secret location under high security guard. Any member of the public wishing for more information should call 0345 66 99 66.

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condemnation

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for the
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Yard links
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'Mr. Big'

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Somebody once said there were only two things in life you could count on: death and taxes. Well, maybe there's a case for adding another to the list. Nursing home bills.

Nursing home bills. The words have a cosy ring to them, don't they? But the truth is, they can devour your entire lifetime's savings at a speed that's frightening. How fast exactly? Well, hold on to your Parker Knoll: the current going rate for long term care in a nursing home is around £400 a week. At £20,000 a year, that's almost double the current average pension.

[WHAT ABOUT MY NEST EGG?]

Ah yes, your nest egg. Well, even if you've carefully salted away £100,000 say, nursing home bills could whittle that away in no time. And once the nest egg's gone, how soon before you're forced to sell the nest itself? {Just for the record, 40,000 homes were sold to pay for long term care bills in 1992 alone.} And weren't you hoping to leave all your worldly goods to your children rather than the proprietors of Sunnyview nursing home?

[WON'T THE STATE HELP?]

Don't count on it. As the population ages, funding of long term care is becoming ever less generous. And stringent means-testing is now in place to determine how much you are liable for..As rules stand, you'll receive no State or local authority assistance whatsoever if you have total assets of over £8,000. And they'll only foot the bill in its entirety if you have total assets of £3,000 or less.

Of course, the hope is that your family will rally round. Yet all the evidence is that informal family care - the kind that was taken for granted a generation ago - is becoming steadily less common as society changes its habits. For instance, the number of working women is increasing. The divorce rate is on the up. Families are getting smaller and dispersing geographically. Life, as we are in the habit of saying, is changing.

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Of course, the hope is that you'll never need nursing home care. In which case the accrued value of the bond passes to your children or other beneficiaries in full.

But if the need for nursing home care does arise, you can rest easy. Because it needn't be your nest egg, or the proceeds of your house, or your children having to foot the bills. It will be Scottish Amicable European.

If we've made long term care protection sound all rather serious, that's precisely because it is. Certainly we would suggest you consider your family's requirements and discuss the subject with your financial adviser without delay.

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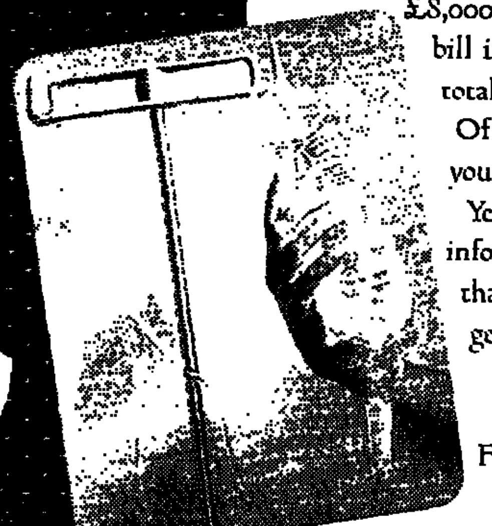
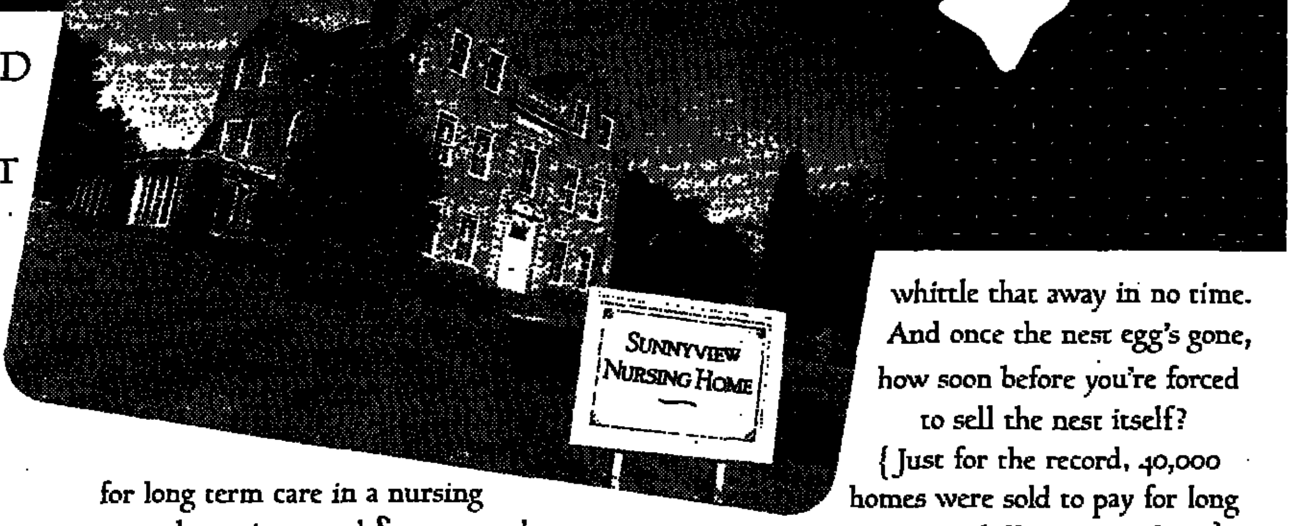




More Israelis shift from right wing to rally behind Peres

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE first opinion poll published since Yitzhak Rabin's assassination showed a massive shift away from the right wing of Israeli politics and a runaway victory for Shimon Peres, the acting Labour Prime Minister, in any snap election.

The poll, taken on Tuesday and Wednesday by the Dahaf Institute, was published yesterday by *Yediot Ahronot* hours before the sixth suspect in an alleged extreme right-wing plot to sabotage the Middle East peace process by killing Rabin last Saturday appeared before a Tel Aviv court. Like all the others, he was a Jew in his 20s.

According to the poll, Mr Peres would receive 54 per cent if a vote was held now, compared with only 23 per cent for Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of the main right-wing opposition Likud Party, who before the killing had been comfortably ahead of Rabin in most of the polls.

Even more significantly for the future of the peace deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, an unprecedented 74 per cent of Israelis said that the Israeli handover of towns in the occupied West Bank to the Palestinians should continue and only 23 per cent said the Government should freeze the plan as the Likud has been demanding.

Three per cent did not reply. However, the poll was warmly welcomed in Western embassies as confirmation of the widespread belief that the first assassination of a prime minister in Israel's 47-year history would provoke a backlash against both mainstream and extreme right-wing opponents of the peace process. Tens of thousands of Israelis have been removing anti-government and anti-peace bumper stickers from their cars since the shooting.

Israel's next election is not due to be held until November 1996. Mr Peres has resisted pressure from leftwingers to bring it forward to spring. In the volatile Jewish state, diplomats said it was unclear how long the sudden slump in Likud's fortunes would last. In the atmosphere of tension and anxiety about more political violence it is hard to see how a proper election with public appearances by politicians could be held. Senior members of the Government believe that other political murders may take place and draconian measures have been imposed to protect ministers.

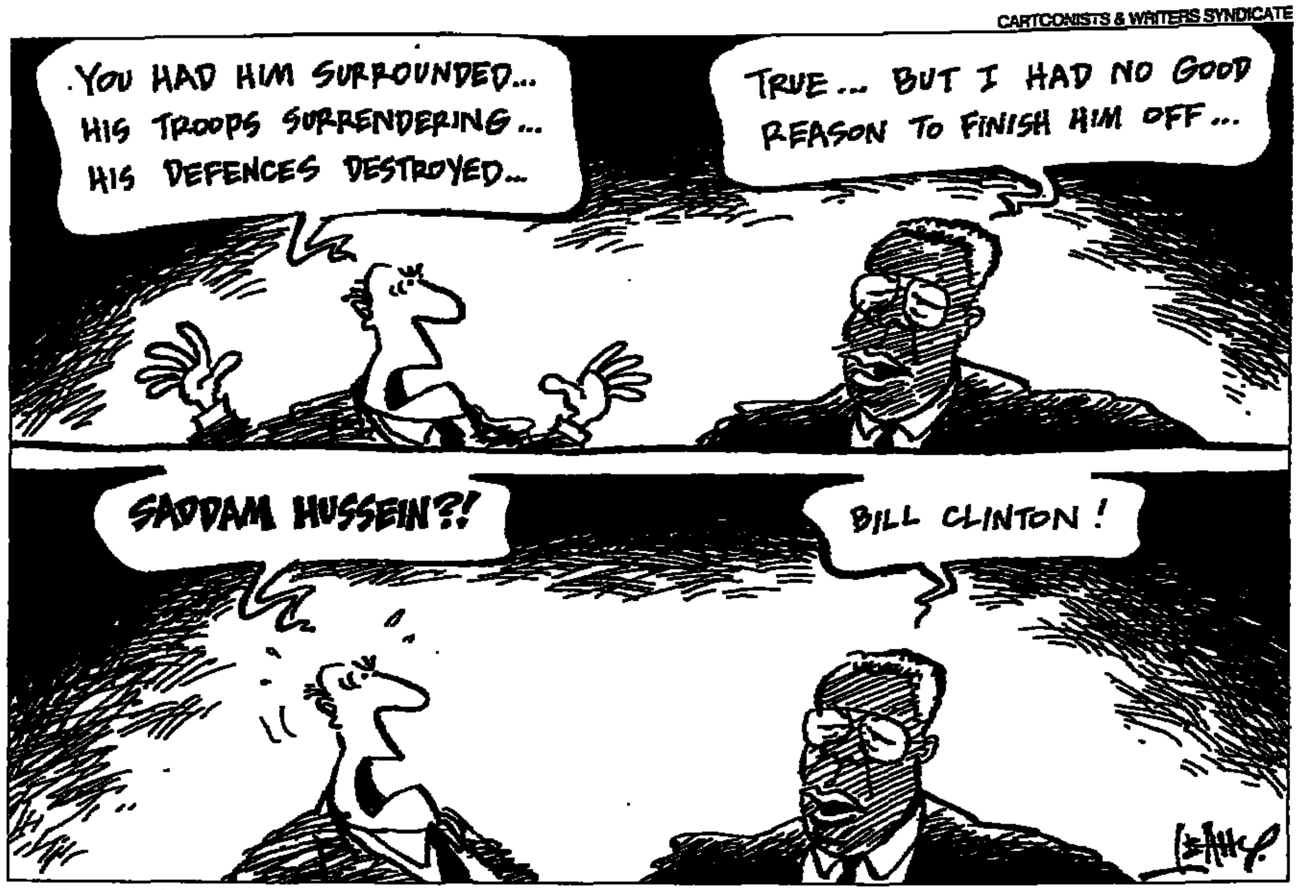
The Government yesterday also acted to halt the gloating by Jewish extremists after the Rabin killing. The Attorney-General wrote to editors that they could be prosecuted for publishing statements seen as inciting violence. In Jordan, King Husain attacked the Islamic opposition weekly, *Al-Sabeel*, for a front-page headline about the assassination that ran: "Murderers are one less."

The United States last night offered Israel the assistance of the FBI to help crack the suspected conspiracy behind the Rabin assassination and possible links with American Jewish extremists.

The offer came as ultra-orthodox Jews in New York started a telephone hotline to raise funds for the Prime Minister's assassin. Moshe Gross, its organiser, claimed a large number of calls of support from Jews who considered Yigal Amir, the self-confessed killer, a hero.

The Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks, will reveal tomorrow the contents of one of the last letters Yitzhak Rabin wrote to him. Rabin writes: "Even within the democratic framework, the call for violence, the use of undemocratic means to destabilise our system and our way of life, cannot and should not be permitted. Compromise and tolerance are essential if peace is to be achieved."

CARTOONISTS & WRITERS SYNDICATE


YOU HAD HIM SURROUNDED... HIS TROOPS SURRENDERING... HIS DEFENCES DESTROYED...
TRUE... BUT I HAD NO GOOD REASON TO FINISH HIM OFF...
SADDAM HUSSEIN?!
BILL CLINTON!
Leahy

The view of Leahy, in Brisbane's *Courier-Mail*, on General Colin Powell's decision not to run for the presidency

$4m consolation for Simpson loser

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

MARCIA Clark may have lost the O. J. Simpson trial, but in the ensuing race for multimillion dollar publishing deals she has prevailed through wit, charm — and gender.

Ms Clark landed a $4.2 million (£2.7 million) book contract without a written proposal or the promise of an established writer to help with the manuscript, it emerged yesterday. Instead, she wooed eight New York publishers in a remarkable series of meetings that left one editor "crushed" not to have signed her. The lawyer's pugnacious style and tousled hair became household talking points during the year-long trial. She now stands to earn more from the ordeal than Mr Simpson or any of his victorious defence lawyers. Only Generals Colin Powell and Norman Schwarzkopf have won larger book advances.

Ms Clark's appeal appears to lie in her success in juggling the roles of mother and high-profile attorney, and the fact that more than half of America's book-buyers are women. Arlene Friedman, of Doubleday, said the chief prosecutor emerged as the most interesting chronicler of the trial because she was "a single mother, a professional battling sexism in the workplace" and had "coped with the media's unprecedented onslaught". Eight publishers entered the auction for her story with the minimum bid set at $1 million. Three were still in at $4 million, with the contract going to Viking-Penguin. One loser called the final price "crazy", but Viking said the book would be the definitive trial account.

More than 30 books on the Simpson trial are already on the shelves, with at least 14 more planned, including volumes by Ms Clark's fellow prosecutor, Christopher Darden, and three members of the "dream team" of defence lawyers.

Gunmen in Algiers kill French nun

Paris: A French nun was shot dead and another left in a coma by suspected Islamic gunmen in Algiers yesterday (Ben Macintyre writes).

Paris issued an urgent appeal for all French citizens in Algeria to leave the country and the Foreign Ministry advised journalists not to travel to Algeria for next week's presidential elections since their safety could not be guaranteed. Thirty French citizens, including 11 priests and nuns, have been murdered by Islamic extremists in Algeria since 1992, where at least 40,000 people have died in political violence.

Berlusconi loses

Rome: Silvio Berlusconi, the former Prime Minister, failed to have his forthcoming trial on corruption charges moved from Milan, where he says magistrates are pursuing a political witch-hunt. *(Reuter)*

Detainee to sue

Washington: Abraham Ahmad, arrested at Heathrow airport after the Oklahoma City bombing, is seeking damages of $1.9 million (£1.2 million) over his wrongful detention as a suspect.

Oil tanker drifts

Muscat: A Panamanian supertanker, the *New Brooklyn*, loaded with 260,000 tonnes of oil has been drifting off Oman after a power failure, threatening the Gulf with a "major disaster", officials said. *(AFP)*

Thai ferry sinks

Bangkok: Two people died and 178 were rescued after a ferry packed with tourists heading for the Thai resort island of Ko Samui capsized and sank in the Gulf of Thailand. *(AFP)*

Etna explosions

Catania: Mount Etna, the highest active volcano in Europe, was rocked by a series of strong explosions, but Italian officials said there was no danger yet for people living nearby. *(Reuter)*

Floods arrest

Cotabato: A Filipino deputy mayor, who allegedly set off an explosion by a volcanic lake in search of Second World War treasures, was arrested for causing floods that killed more than 70 people. *(AFP)*

$100m support

New York: Princeton, one of America's Ivy League universities, has been given $100 million by a former undergraduate, Gordon Wu, a builder. It is the largest gift by a foreigner to a US college.

Poll backs Clinton stance on budget

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON received a boost in the polls yesterday in his battle with the Republican Congress over the budget.

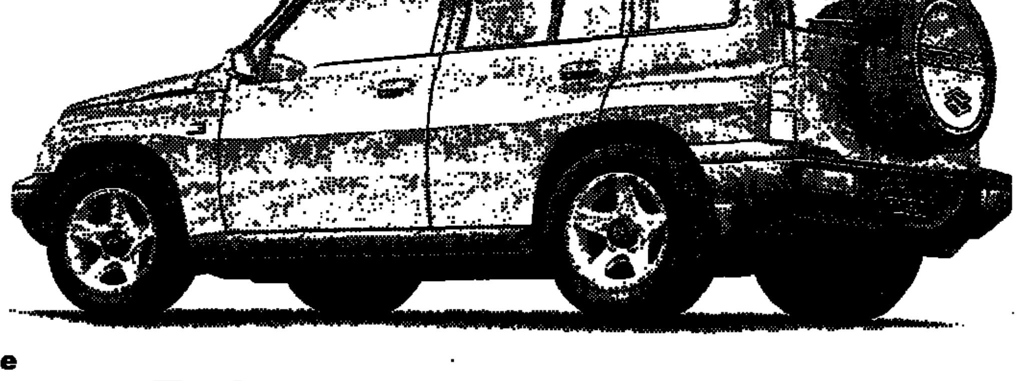
With the Government set to shut down for lack of money from midnight on Monday, the Gallup poll showed 60 per cent of those questioned believe that Mr Clinton is right to block the Republicans' plan for balancing the budget through spending cuts in major social programmes while simultaneously cutting taxes.

Other recent polls and a string of Republican reverses in last Tuesday's state elections sent broadly the same message. Even General Colin Powell, now a signed-up member of the Republican Party, expressed concern at the "harshness" of the Republican plan when he announced he would not be a presidential candidate on Wednesday.

Yesterday's poll showed 82 per cent wanted a balanced budget but 57 per cent said the Republican cuts went to far. Mr Clinton won a 52 per cent approval rating, his highest in 18 months, and enjoyed a ten-point lead over Robert Dole, his likely Republican opponent in the presidential poll.

The stakes in the budget battle are enormous. The plan put forward by Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, and his cohorts to lop roughly $1,000 billion (£633 million) off federal spending by 2002 is the cornerstone of a "revolution" designed to roll back "big government". Conversely, this is Mr Clinton's chance to cast himself as the defender of cherished social programmes.

Now, barring some unlikely breakthrough, all non-essential government services will cease on Tuesday. The Treasury is meanwhile preparing to prevent a disastrous default on Wednesday when it is due to pay $25 billion to holders of securities.



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Hunt resumed for Nato leader after Lubbers drops out

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE search for a new Nato chief turned into a transatlantic clash yesterday when Ruud Lubbers, the Dutch politician backed by the main European states, stood down after his candidacy was rejected by the United States.

The Dutch Government said it was withdrawing the candidature of Mr Lubbers, who was Prime Minister for 12 years, because Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, had mentioned the opposition in Washington to his appointment as Secretary-General.

The only other candidate, Uffe Elleman-Jensen of Denmark, restated his desire for the job last night. Officials at Nato headquarters said that the succession to Willy Claes, the Belgian who was forced to resign last month, could take weeks to resolve.

For Mr Lubbers, his country's pre-eminent statesman, the action was the second public rejection in 18 months. Last year, German objections deprived him of the chance of succeeding Jacques Delors as President of the European Commission. "The Netherlands has put forward its best. If that is not good enough then it is over," said Hans van Mierlo, the Dutch Foreign Minister.

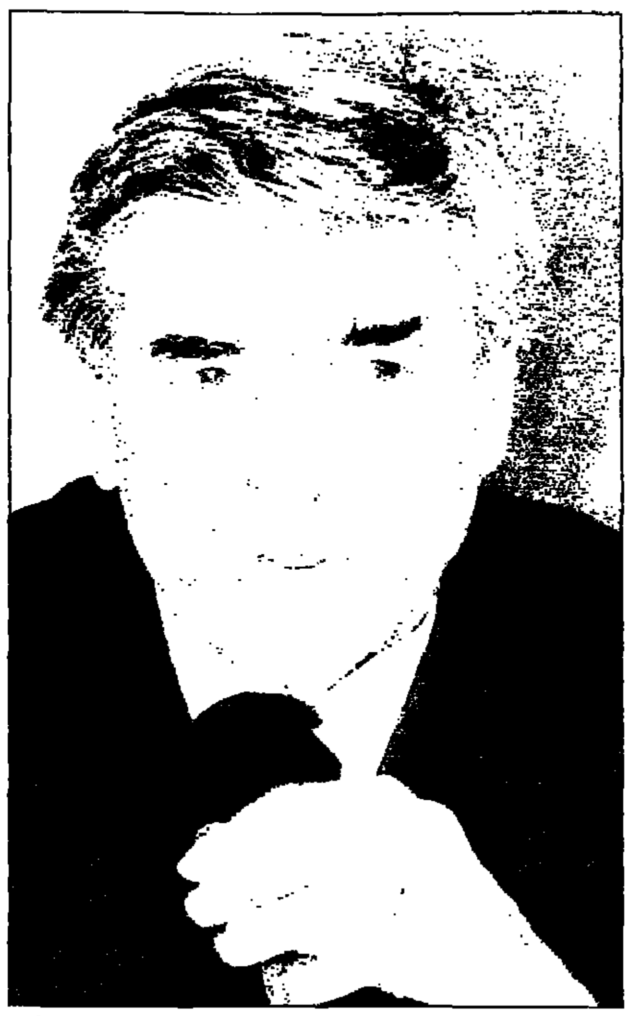
The Hague was seething over the humiliation which it deems to have been inflicted on the country. "This is a bitter blow for our national prestige and a personal tragedy for Mr Lubbers," the Clingendael Institute for International Relations, a think-tank, said.

The American action was seen elsewhere as more of a symptom of its irritation over the way in which the appointment of Mr Lubbers had been presented by the European states as a fait accompli. The Secretary-General's post traditionally goes to a European while American generals serve as Supreme Allied Commander, but as the senior partner, Washington expects to have a big say in the appointment. Officials in Brussels were comparing the case to Britain's objection last year to the Franco-German attempt to impose Jean-Luc Dehaene of Belgium as President of the Commission.

The Americans were irked by the way in which President Chirac promoted Mr Lubbers after rejecting Mr Elleman-Jensen because he did not speak French. Denmark's opposition to French nuclear testing was seen as a big factor in the French attitude.

Washington officials also alluded to possible skeletons in the Dutchman's cupboard. In the 1980s, he had to defend himself in parliament over suggestions that his brother had gained from government business in the Middle East.

Leading article, page 21



Ruud Lubbers, whose candidature was withdrawn by the Dutch after Washington voiced objections

Novels capture scandals of dying Mitterrand's reign

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANÇOIS MITTERRAND is dying of cancer but he has already attained literary immortality in a range of new novels depicting the former French President and his long, scandal-plagued reign.

This autumn has seen the publication of no less than four novels portraying the Mitterrand years behind a veil of fiction. While the ailing leader may feel honoured to have inspired an entire literary genre, he will be less happy with the contents which range from merely unflattering to damning.

The model for the principal character in Stéphane Denis's *Histoire de France* could hardly be more obvious: "François Jardin" is born into a bourgeois family, taken prisoner in the Second World War, comes to prominence under the Vichy regime and is elected leader in 1981, and then again seven years later. Like the Socialist President, the fictional François is elegant, cultured and a brilliant political operator; but he is also amoral, cynical, and ready to sacrifice his political principles.

"President Jardin" even consorts with a former Nazi collaborator: an unmistakable pen-portait of the former Vichy police chief and one-time friend of M Mitterrand, René Bousquet. The fictional leader also conceals the truth about his illegitimate daughter. Denis happens to be the *Paris-Match* journalist who broke the story of M Mitterrand's mistress and daughter.

Une Affaire Embarrassante, by Gilles Martin-Chauffier, is a swingeing attack on the corruption and cronyism of the Mitterrand years, clearly based on the notorious "Pechiney affair" of 1988, in which a close friend of the leader bought shares in the American company just a week before a takeover by a state-owned firm.

Mitterrand: inspiration for literary plots

Then there is *L'Ambitieuse* (The Ambitious Woman) by Max Gallo, which fictionalises the sinister power struggles surrounding the President and which culminates in the suicide of a political adviser in his office in the Elysée. François de Grossouvre, M Mitterrand's èminence grise, shot himself in his Elysée office last year.

Finally, Jack-Alain Léger's *La Gloire est le Deuil Éclatant du Bonheur* (Glory is the Bright Mourning of Happiness) is an indictment of "champagne socialism", with yet another story of a fraud scandal reminiscent of the Mitterrand era.

The former President's impending death from prostate cancer has inspired little mercy among the novelists. While they may not paint a complimentary picture of his reign, they are, nonetheless, a backhanded testament to his extraordinary influence.

Begum Salimah: wants to sell £9.5m jewellery

Aga Khan loses fight over jewels

Geneva: The Aga Khan, one of the world's richest men, yesterday lost a six-week court battle to prevent his former wife, Begum Salimah, from selling a jewellery collection worth an estimated $15 million (£9.5 million). Christie's, the auctioneers, said part of the proceeds from next Monday's auction are to be used to set up a charitable foundation (Peter Capella writes).

The couple's divorce last March was described by one of the Aga Khan's lawyers as amiable. However, the Aga Khan had argued that many items he had given his wife, a British-born former top model, during their 25-year marriage were family or religious jewels.

Juan Carlos 'target of blackmail'

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

CARLOS GRANDOS, the Spanish Attorney-General, said yesterday he was investigating claims that two financiers were attempting to blackmail King Juan Carlos to have fraud charges against them dropped.

The national *Diario 16* newspaper yesterday published part of a book by two of its journalists that purports to tell how Mario Conde, the former chairman of the Banesto bank, and Javier de la Rosa, the former agent in Spain for the Kuwaiti Investment Office, were allegedly threatening the monarch.

Señor Conde, 45, who is currently on £10 million bail, was often seen in the pages of *Hola!*, the pictorial gossip magazine, rubbing shoulders with the King during yachting holidays in Majorca. Banesto had to be rescued two years ago when debts of £3 billion were discovered.

Señor de la Rosa, 48, represented the London-based investment office until 1992 and is currently being questioned by a London court over the disappearance of $450 million (£285 million) from the company. He has repeatedly alleged that the money was used by the Kuwaitis to buy political and military support.

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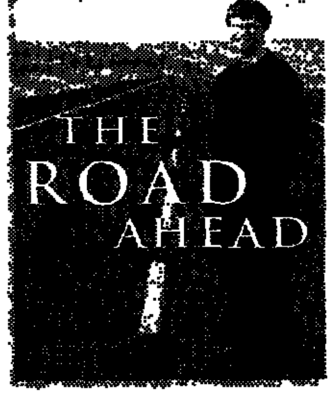

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THISTLE HOTELS

Voters hail left-wing Mayor as 'Saint Antonio' for miraculous regeneration of port city

Mr Clean steers Naples away from squalid past

ROME FILE

by JOHN PHILLIPS

TWO years after his election as the Mayor of Naples, Antonio Bassolino is emerging as the Tony Blair of Italy. His "miraculous" regeneration of the chaotic southern city has earmarked him, among insiders, as potentially the most charismatic left-wing prime ministerial candidate since Enrico Berlinguer, the Eurocommunist leader of the 1970s.

Signor Bassolino, 47, was a little-known former Communist MP before he defeated Alessandra Mussolini, the granddaughter of *Il Duce*, in a hard-fought mayoral contest on December 5, 1993. He quickly won over sceptical Neapolitans by clearing the city centre of traffic to cure some of the worst jams in the Mediterranean region. World leaders attending last year's summit of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations discovered car-free streets along the Bay of Naples and a dazzling pedestrian precinct in the Piazza del Plebiscito adjoining the Royal Palace.

The successful summit has led to a boom in tourism. Signor Bassolino, who is probably the only Italian mayor who does not have a car and who has never taken a driving test, is not resting on his laurels. His council, an alliance of the former Communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), the Greens and the Rete anti-Mafia party, has impressive plans to provide jobs for the 25 per cent of the city workforce that are unemployed. Next year, a huge development project is to be inaugurated to transform the 700-acre former Ilva steel plant at Bagnoli into a holiday resort and new homes.

But not everything in Naples has improved since the demise of the city's old bosses. Street crime is still high, with up to 200 thefts recorded each month by muggers on scooters. The Camorra, the vicious Neapolitan version of the Mafia, also remains a force. Signor Bassolino struck a chord with citizens when he declined to meet a delegation of cigarette smugglers demanding support for their illicit trade. He devised stricter rules for those tendering for city work contracts to keep gangsters from cashing in.

His achievements in the anarchic port city have already distinguished him from the leaders of his party, such as Massimo D'Alema, the PDS secretary, and Walter Veltroni, the editor of the party organ *L'Unitd*, who lack experience in running a government.

As Italy prepares for a general election, which is expected to be held next year, observers such as Paolo Bonaiuti, the reputed commentator of *Il Messaggero*, believe that sooner or later the hard-working mayor will be selected as a candidate for higher office and could probably bring the Left to power for the first time in postwar Italy. "Bassolino is the most able up-and-coming man in the PDS," Signor Bonaiuti says. "He would command a large number of votes from the south."

When he walks through the Neapolitan slums, Signor Bassolino sometimes is hailed by passers-by as "Sant Antonio", second in popularity only to Saint Gennaro, the patron of Naples. "This is less blasphemous than it might seem," says the popular magazine *Noi*. "After so many robbers, a gentleman in power is something miraculous."

Antonio Bassolino's reforms have been a breath of fresh air for Neapolitans. He is being widely tipped as the first postwar leader of Italy from the Left

Blue-blood vamp bites again

THE Marchesa Marina Ripa di Meana, the vampish wife of the former European Commissioner, Carlo, with a trail of discarded lovers behind her, has claimed yet another victim. Jean-Louis Lucet, the French Ambassador to Italy, was suddenly sidelined last month to the backwater post of French Ambassador to the Holy See. Diplomatic sources said that the demotion was punishment for allowing the 52-year-old marchesa to stage a dramatic protest against the Chirac Government going ahead with nuclear tests in the South Pacific by draping a banner over the façade of the French Embassy in the Italian capital as the ambassador hosted a Bastille Day cocktail party.

La Scala pay scales strike a low note

YET another strike call at La Scala has infuriated Milanese opera buffs concerned that the first night of *The Magic Flute* on December 7, to be directed by Riccardo Muti, is in jeopardy.

Sixty per cent of citizens in the northern city are in favour of privatisation of the opera house to resolve its chronic shortage of funds and to end the agitation, according to a poll by the Datamedia market research company.

The board of directors of La Scala this week unanimously approved a proposal by its superintendent, Carlo Fontana, to change its status from a public body to a foundation that would be more open to private sponsors while retaining its existing state funding.

Signor Fontana is lobbying Lamberto Dino, the Prime Minister, to provide tax reductions for donations by private sponsors. Strikes by union members among the 820 employees demanding a new contract last month forced the cancellation of two performances of *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Signor Fontana believes the strikers' grievances are justified in the face of cuts in government arts spending. He hopes the woes of La Scala can be resolved before national celebrations in 2001 to commemorate the centenary of the death of Verdi.

Privately, many Milanese blame some of the vicissitudes of La Scala on the increasingly unpopular Mayor, Marco Formentini, from the devolutionist Northern League. Critics claim that Signor Formentini's difficulties in raising municipal taxes have prevented the city from contributing more funds to the opera house.

Spielberg lined up for monster sequel

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THE man who made *Jurassic Park*, the most lucrative film in history, will also direct its sequel.

Steven Spielberg has ended months of speculation and raised the prospect of another blockbuster by agreeing to direct *The Lost World* for Universal Pictures.

Like its predecessor, the film will be based on a novel by Michael Crichton about latter-day dinosaurs bred in a laboratory from fossilised DNA.

Since its release in 1993, *Jurassic Park* has earned about $913 million (£578 million) internationally at the box office, with further revenue from cuddly dinosaur souvenirs and the film's bestselling home video version. It confirmed Mr Spielberg's reputation as Hollywood's most gold-fingered director.

The sequel will not be released until 1997, by which time *Jurassic Park* will have taken its place in the iconography of pop culture with its own "ride" at the Universal Studios theme park in Hollywood, alongside re-creations of scenes from Mr Spielberg's earlier successes, *Jaws* and *Back To The Future*.

Mr Crichton's new book, set on a Caribbean island off Costa Rica, has meanwhile become the fastest-selling novel in the history of its publisher, Alfred Knopf. It has been at the top of the bestseller list in *The New York Times* since it was published in September, and there are more than two million copies in print.

Spielberg: reputation for box office success

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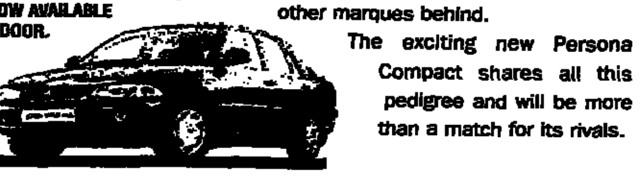

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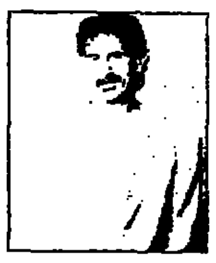
■ OPINION

Where does Sian Edwards's departure from ENO leave the cause of *women in the arts*?

■ THEATRE

The Royal Court's latest play, *Waiting Room Germany*, reflects the feelings of a unified nation

THE TIMES ARTS



■ BASE NOTE

They are still wild about Zappa in Vilnius: the great pioneer is honoured in Lithuania

■ BASE NOTE

Worries grow about Giulini's health as the veteran maestro cries off his British dates

Why won't men pass on the baton?

IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

As Bernard Haitink, the *magnificently* gloomy Dutchman who is music director at Covent Garden, once remarked: "A conductor never enters an opera house without some axe *falling* on his head." That's true. Crises, walkouts, tantrums — these are to opera houses what pasta is to Pavarotti.

I know little about the precise crises, walkouts and tantrums at English National Opera, where Sian Edwards resigned her post this week as music director. If the more lurid tales are true, the company's daily routine now resembles the Schnittke opera that it unwisely staged this year: *Life with an Idiot*. On the other hand Dennis Marks, ENO's roly-poly boss, points out that attendances are at their highest for five years. As W. S. Gilbert would have said: a most ingenious paradox!

However, let's consider Edwards's resignation from a different angle: the fact that she was a woman in a top arts job. When she was appointed, much was made of her gender. She was seen as a torch-bearer in a profession — conducting — that is notoriously unwelcoming to women. Now the torch has been dropped, and that is disappointing. The startling fact is that in 1995, and in an area — the arts — where people pride themselves on being open-minded, women are practically nowhere on the ladder of power.

Just look around you. How many women run major British opera companies, or regularly conduct them? Edwards apart, I cannot think of any. How many run major ballet companies, or regularly make dances for them? One, perhaps two. Men dominate the ballet world. At Sadler's Wells currently we even have the bizarre spectacle of an all-male *Swan Lake* — devised, it seems, so that men can make a narcissistic examination of the male psyche.

No major British orchestra is run by a woman, nor conducted by one. The theatre world is more advanced, both in creative figures (Deborah Warner, Annie Castledine, Katie Mitchell) and dynamic administrators (Ruth Mackenzie, Jude Kelly, Genista McIntosh). But men run the vast majority of major galleries and museums, and what they exhibit is predominantly male art. A new survey is about to reveal that just three in every thousand works of art on show in Britain are by women.

All right, galleries cannot turn Old Masters into Old Mistresses. Nor can centuries of social and educational custom be overturned in a day, though one might have expected a little more improvement after decades of supposedly equal opportunities. Nor can it be easy to jet off to conduct the New York Phil if you are the mother of a young family.

But what is odd about the British arts scene is that many women are found running *minor* arts organisations (where the stress and demand on time is probably greater), yet so few manage to seize the really big prizes. Why should this be? One admired woman director told me that "to gain recognition in the arts a woman has to beat not only the old-boy network but also the gay mafia". I find that far-fetched, but the remark reveals how frustration can turn to bitterness when a fine talent is thwarted.

The sadness for Great Britain plc is that so much talent *is* being thwarted, simply because it resides in the wrong gender. I am no fan of tokenism or positive discrimination: merit should determine everything. But at present it doesn't. That is hardly a great advertisement for the enlightening power of the arts.

All of this should be seen in the context of popular culture's extraordinarily male-centred output. I have lost count of the number of television series about sailors, Welsh Guards, paratroopers, bricklayers, and now — following each other on Thursday evenings — "roughnecks" and "rednecks", meaning men working on oilrigs and in the military police.

Add to that the ever-increasing time devoted to live football, "nostalgia" football and sports quizzes with ageing prop forwards. To balance all this, it seems to me, the arts ought to be especially women-friendly.

Gosh, I am starting to sound like a poor woman's Janet Street-Porter. In the unlikely event that I come up for membership of the Garrick Club, the MCC, the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra or the priesthood of the Roman Catholic Church, I shall of course claim that the above was written while I was under intense psychological duress from my wife. Meanwhile, I stand by every word.

The spectacle of journalists meekly letting the Hollywood publicity machine crush them into compliance is commonplace. But I had imagined cartoonists to be made of sterner stuff. Which is why I gawped at a Jak cartoon in the London *Evening Standard* this week. Though ostensibly tackling the subject of public interest immunity certificates, Jak manages to include four mentions of the new Bond film and three references to its star, plus an entire cast list. He also subtly weaves the words "Bond is Back" into the cartoon in four places.

Even by his prodigious standards of product placement this is exceptional work. I do hope that he receives a substantial kiss from Miss Moneypenny.

THEATRE: True stories of the pains of German unification; and female comedy with a black edge

Voices call across the lost border

Waiting Room Germany
Royal Court

The sixth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall has coincided with readings of new German work at the Royal Court, and both with a sudden hole in the theatre's programme, thanks to the postponement of Nigel Williams's latest play. So the theatre's current offering makes perfect sense. The Court has rushed on stage a piece about the impact of division and reunification that needs nothing more than five performers capable of making monologues crackle. The result is almost always riveting.

Whether or not Klaus Pohl models the piece on Anna Deavere Smith's tales of street violence in New York and Los Angeles, his methods are similar. He interviewed people in both halves of Germany — from a former Politburo member to a taxi driver, two mayors to a car mechanic — and recorded their memories and views verbatim. If you are not interested in geopolitics, so much the better. The emphasis is less on the pond, more on the frogs and tadpoles surviving inside it.

What is it like to "emigrate without going anywhere", as a secretary describes the experience of being wrenched from one system to another? A great man appears, sacks 16,000 people, and apologetically explains he is demolishing the factory where you worked all your life because Chinese lenses are cheaper. A rip-off merchant bores a spy-hole in your door, then disappears with your money before putting in the glass. The border guard who regularly turned your car inside out now waves cheerfully, and you can tell him without fear of arrest that you want to kick his teeth in.

There are funny moments, but also terrible ones. After all, German lives were manipulated, distorted, destroyed. A young man is expelled from the East because his father is "an enemy of the State", loses his fiancée, hits drugs, and ends up a drifter who feels "cheated of my life". Worse, a house painter is beaten, tortured and imprisoned for years just because he wanted to "go from Germany to Germany". The moment when he arrives penniless in West Berlin and is given a big plateful of cake by a friendly shopkeeper is extraordinarily moving.

Your sympathies tilt this way and that. A psychiatrist somehow escapes a country she calls "a concentration camp full of lunatics", and cannot conceal her bitterness at the financial demands of Easterners who would have obediently watched her public hanging: "You say you've been badly treated. I say you haven't been treated badly enough, you ****s." But you also meet a man who was forced by the apparatchiks to become mayor of Harzgerode, and you believe his bewildered sincerity when he talks of a community betrayed by both systems.

Are there no conclusions to be drawn from the efforts of Robin Soans, Maureen Beattie and the other members of Mary Peate's fine cast? Maybe one. It is summed up by a terrified, tearful academic who lost his wife and family after being bullied and threatened by the party. "Now you can think things you were never allowed to think," he says. "I can speak again. I can say when I'm afraid. I can walk in the woods." Isn't that worth just about everything?

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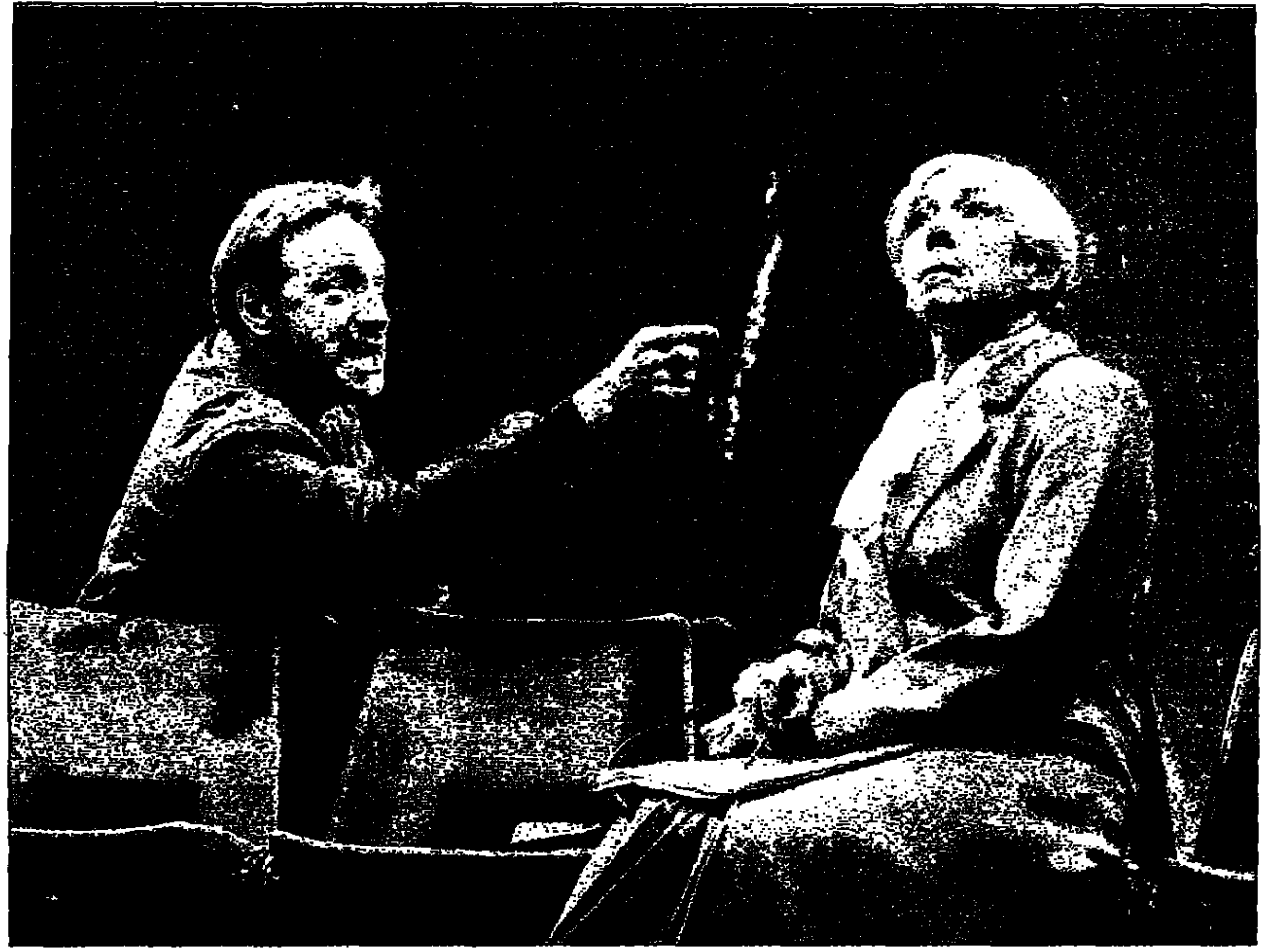


Neil Dudgeon and Freda Dowie relive the experiences of individuals scarred by the postwar history of Germany

Comic sisters stand up for their rites

Funny Black Women on the Edge
Theatre Royal, Stratford East

First came The Posse, seven black comedians (male) who formed themselves into a touring group to extend their range beyond solo stand-up, and now come seven women. Or rather, five plus two: the five being the comedians and the two (Maria Coffey, Lorraine Le Blanc) dancers obliged to double as visible stage managers and persistently trying to begin their dance routine, only to be shooed off by Angie Le Mar, the writer and queenly commander of the team.

They are funny, they are black, they are women, and if by edge they mean the often perilous areas of female raunchiness and black men's frailty, they jump boldly off this edge, and then swing back without mishap because their daring comes with cheeky devilment and wit.

They poke fun at the pretentious trappings of "black awareness" by bringing on an earnestly vigorous drummer, ethnically clad, to introduce a terribly serious poet speaking fiercely of suffering and breadfruit. They also make fun of fathers who see no logic in supporting their children when the money could be spent on a flash car.

The first is just a laugh, and nothing wrong with that, but the second is a sketch that bites, and from all around the audience came cries of recognition from women each time the goofily grinning "man", forever clutching his groin, utters some inanity. Cries of recognition from the men, too.

Le Mar is tall and the haughty look comes easily to her; also the toughie stance when she plays the singer Mica Paris in the sketch where Sharon Scott's grimly grinning television hostess gives contestants the chance to meet their heroines.

Le Mar's Paris will not be hustled off the stage, though Stone and her aides pile athletically into her, and as the front curtain falls and rises, is seen each time to be bouncing her sturdy weight on yet another assailant.

A spoof operatic trio, a fair distance after *Carmen*, stretches two of the singers way beyond their range, and a couple of sketches could do with a crisper response to the cues.

But these hesitations are mostly brought about by the vigorous audience participation, calling encouragement to a downtrodden heroine, shouting approval of a vulgar put-down. I missed the precise message in most of these, though the sense was clear enough.

Jo Martin pouts her lip as an abandoned woman — abandoned by her man, and making do with the colour photos in what looked like a gay mag. Adele Johnson and Yvette Rochester Duncan play several young tarty types, but all five actresses slip easily into the variety of roles Le Mar provides for them. She herself is a great grimacer and a lot of fun.

When Coffey and Le Blanc finally get permission, they do a dance so quick and intricate, punctuated with such emphatic shoulder-pulls, that my muscles ached in sympathy. Paulette Goddard's direction keeps the numbers moving swiftly; the frocks glitter with sequins, and the wigs are amazing.

JEREMY KINGSTON

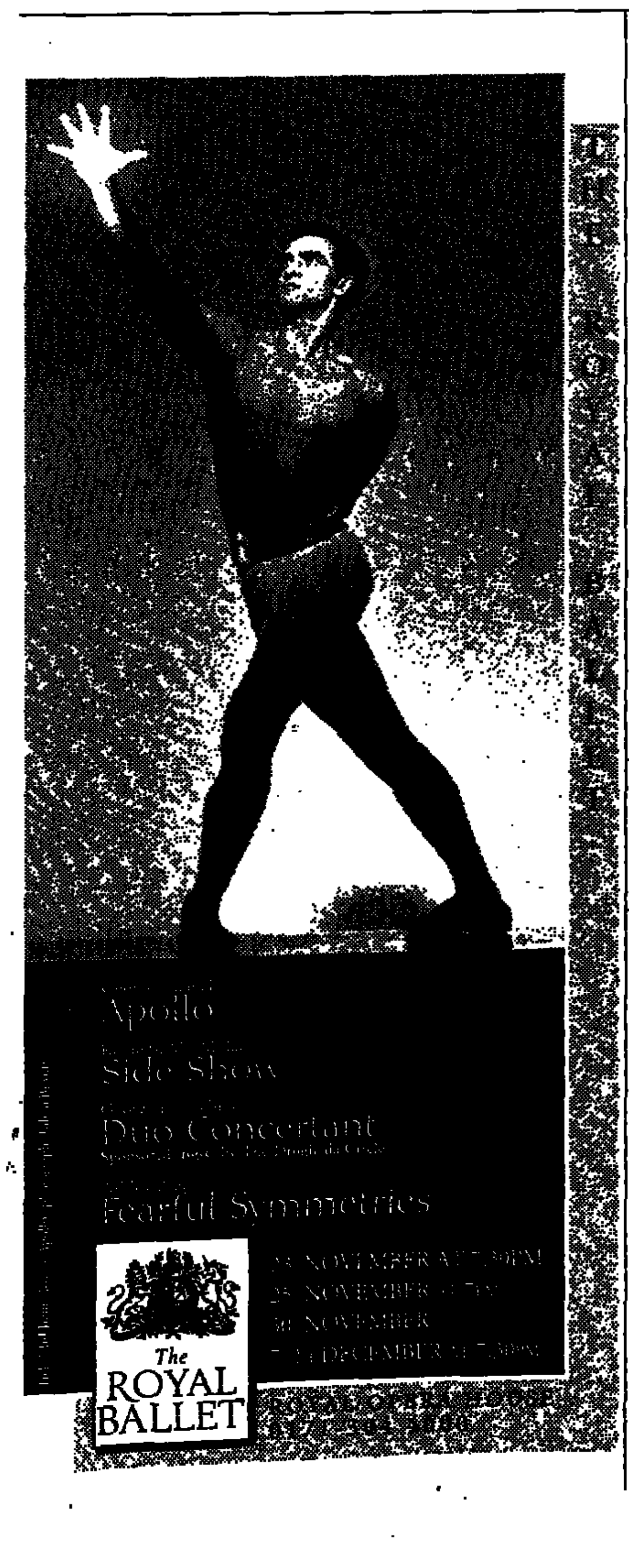
BASE NOTES

MORE large holes are appearing in the classical music calendar: the conductor **Carlo Maria Giulini** has pulled out of two concerts with the Philharmonia in Birmingham and London this month. The 81-year-old Giulini, who was scheduled to conduct Schumann's Third Symphony with the Philharmonia at Symphony Hall in Birmingham on November 24 and at London's Festival Hall a day later, has withdrawn because of ill-health. The concerts, which also **Radu Lupu** playing Mozart, will go ahead, with **David Zinman** conducting.

● IT WAS six years ago that **David Hare** vowed never to work in the New York theatre again, buffeted by the swift closure on Broadway of his play *The Secret Rapture* and by the then *New York Times* critic Frank Rich's harsh words on Hare's own staging of it. In the next 12 months, however, Hare looks set to make up for lost time. His 1990 play *Racing Demon* is now in previews at Lincoln Centre, directed by **Richard Eyre** and opening on November 20. In addition, Hare's current London hit *Skylight* is expected to arrive on Broadway next autumn with its current National Theatre cast intact.

● THE LATE **Frank Zappa** is to be commemorated with both a statue and a library of memorabilia in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius. He is said to have been a focus of inspiration for many radical musicians and artists in Eastern Europe during the communist years, including the playwright and Czech President, **Václav Havel**.

● SHAKESPEARE'S Globe may be trying to recreate the theatrical magic of 400 years ago, but the people behind it are using the most up-to-date technology to fund their rebuilding project. **The International Shakespeare Globe Centre** is using NetGain, which enables people around the world to donate money over the Internet by credit card. The site (www.globe.jhc.net) provides information on the project as well as a donations page. You can buy bricks for £20, while having your name on a seat will cost £500.



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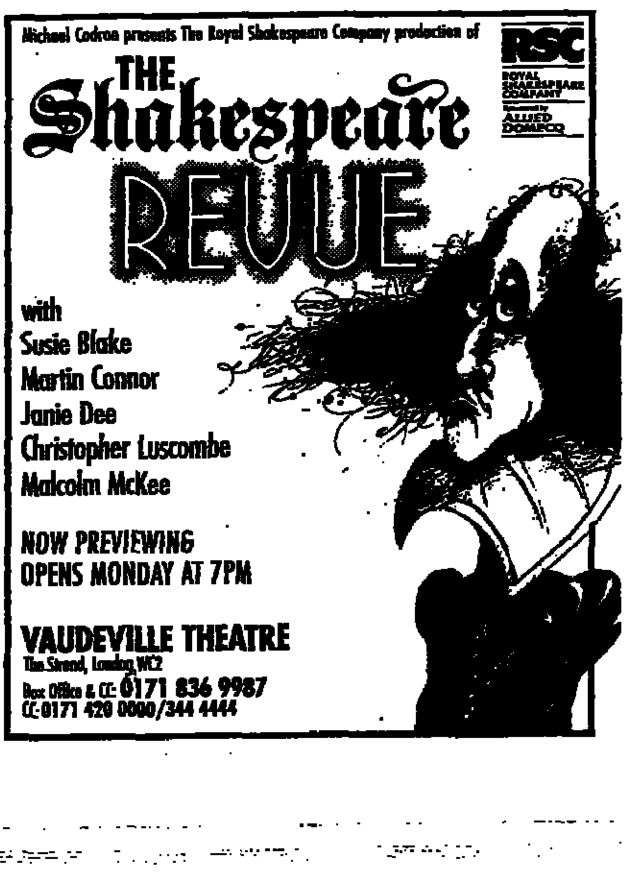

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Sun 12 Nov 8.00 **Tuck & Patti and Carmel** London International Jazz Festival. Patti Cathcart (voice) Tuck Andress (guitar) C McCourt (voice) J Parris (bass) G Darby (drums). £17.50, £12.50

Mon 13 Nov 7.30 **The Vienna Boys Choir** T Bottcher (cond) O Ellis (harp) Works by Purcell, Fauré, Britten, Schubert, J.Strauss and traditional Austrian folksongs. RETURNS ONLY

Tue 14 Nov 7.30 ***Maurizio Pollini*** *International Piano Series* Schumann: Allegro Op.8, Fantasia in C major Op.17; Chopin: Two Nocturnes Op.27, Sonata in B minor Op.35. Maurizio Pollini's only UK recital this season. £20 - £8

Wed 15 Nov 7.30 **BBC Symphony Orchestra** M Honeck (cond) B Bonney (sop) M Goerne (bar) Works by Webern, Mahler, Tchaikovsky £10 (unreserved)

Thu 16 Nov 8.00 **An Evening with Neil Sedaka** This concert features his original, romantic lyrics put to the works of Chopin, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, Schumann, Puccini and other great composers. £22.50, £20

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Fri 17 Nov 7.30 **The London Philharmonic** Resident at the RFH Classics for Pleasure Series. M Bamert (cond) A Queffélec (pno) Mendelssohn: Piano Concerto No.1; Martin: The Four Elements; Beethoven: Symp No.5 £12

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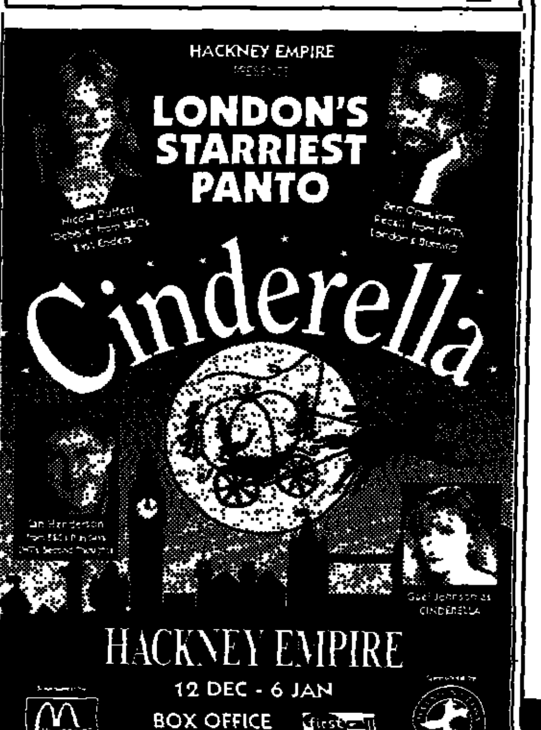

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Mon 13 Nov 7.30pm	**MARIKO SENJU** violin; **JOHN LENEHAN** piano Bach: Solo Violin Sonata No.2 BWV1003 Ysaÿe: Solo Sonatas Op.27 Nos.2 & 4; Franck: Sonata in A (1886); Kreisler: Londonderry Air; Prelude & Allegro £11, £9, £7, £5 Anglo-European Arts
Tues 14 Nov 6.00pm NB: time	Judith Howarth sop; Ian Bostridge ten; Malcolm Martineau pno. **BRITTEN SONGS**: On this Island Op.11; 5 Auden Settings; Folksongs; Ravel: 5 mélodies populaires grecques; Falla: 7 Spanish popular songs 4pm: Here & Now: Student perf. £1 All seats £7 Supp. by the Britten Estate Ltd/ BBC Radio 3
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Wed 15 Nov 6.00pm NB: time	**MARISA ROBLES** harp Rush-Hour Concert Bach: 2 Preludes; Mozart: Air, Variations & Rondo Pastorale Nadermann: Sonatina No.6; Robles: *Narnia* Suite (excerpts) Albéniz: Rumores de la Caleta; Hasselmans: La Source All seats £7 Wigmore Hall/BBC Radio 3
Wed 15 Nov 8.00pm NB: time	**LONDON SINFONIETTA** Hindemith Viola Festival **RNCM CHAMBER ENSEMBLE.** Nobuko Imai viola; Tadaaki Otaka cond. Hindemith: Trauermusik; Schulwerk Op.44; Der Schwanendreher; Octet £14, £12, £9, £6 Evening Sponsor: Biddulph Recordings; Festival Sponsors: The Dunard Fund/EPSON
Thurs 16 Nov 7.30pm	**TABEA ZIMMERMANN** viola Hindemith Viola Festival **CHRISTIAN IVALDI** piano Hindemith: Solo Sonata Op.25 No.1; Sonata in C (1939); Brahms: Sonata in F minor Op.120 No.1; S. Beamish: Sule Skerrie (world prem); B. Zimmermann: Solo Sonata £14, £12, £9, £6 6pm: Pre-Concert talk Bechstein Room
Fri 17 Nov 7.30pm	**NOBUKO IMAI** viola; **JEAN RIGBY** mezzo soprano **ROGER VIGNOLES** piano. Hindemith: Meditation; Solo Sonata (1937); Des Todes Tod Op.23a; D. Horne: Stilled Voices (UK première); Music by P.M. Davies, Takemitsu & Brahms £14, £12, £9, £6 *2.30pm: Masterclass; 6pm: Pre-concert talk*
Sat 18 Nov 7.30pm	**THOMAS RIEBL** viola; **JEAN RIGBY** mezzo soprano **SUSAN TOMES** piano. Hindemith: Solo Sonata Op.31 No.4; Sonata Op.11 No.4; Brahms: Scherzo from FAE Sonata; 2 Songs with Viola; *Music by Britten & Bischof* £14, £12, £9, £6 *11am & 2.30pm: Masterclasses; 6pm: Pre-concert talk*

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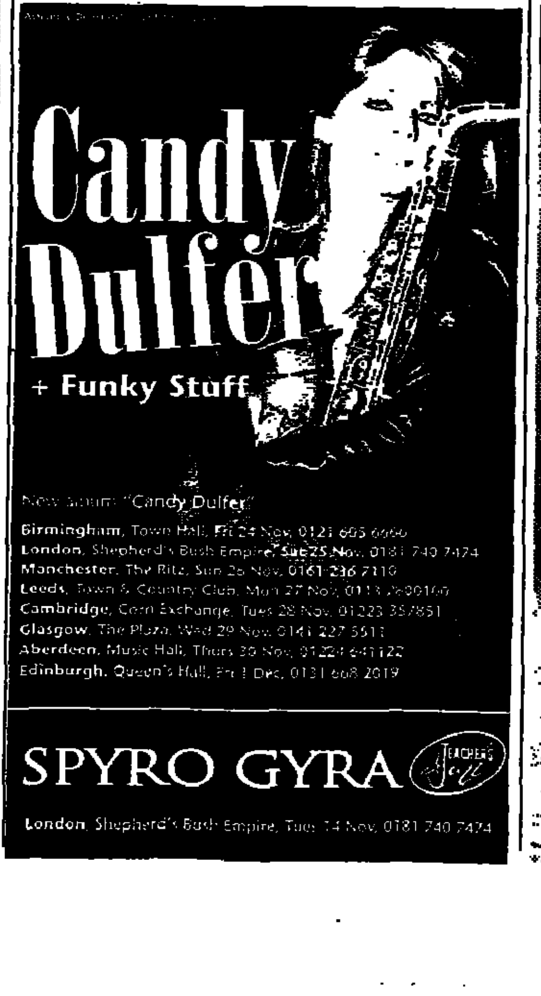

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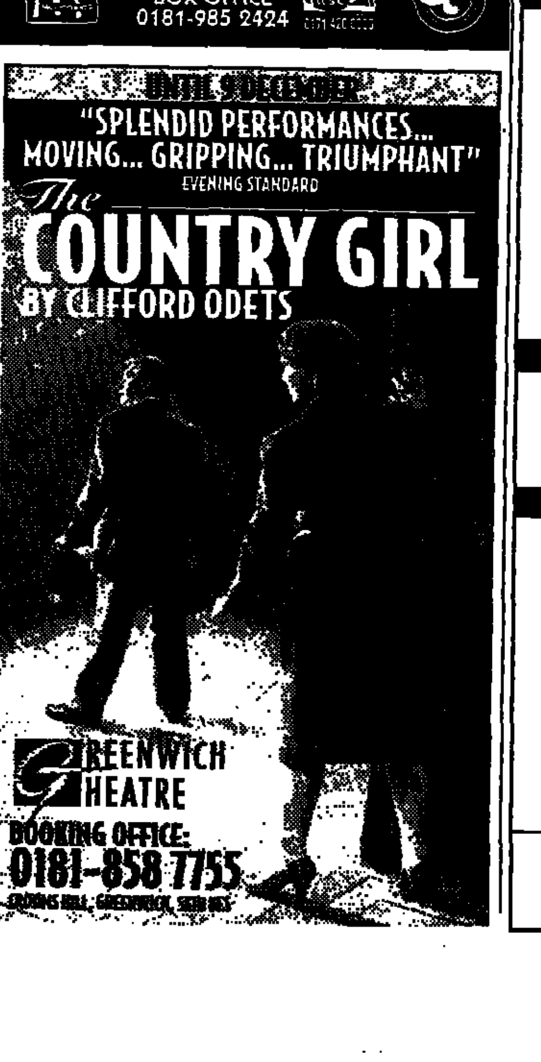

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■ POP

Why Whitney is set on becoming *The Preacher's Wife* after *Waiting to Exhale*

■ RISING STAR

Already portrait painter to the stars, Justin Mortimer is now looking for the broader picture

THE TIMES ARTS

■ RECORDS

The great Tony Bennett comeback goes on and on: his new album is reviewed in Weekend, page 16

■ ON MONDAY

Another blow to national esteem: our sit-com writers are taking lessons from the Americans

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

JUSTIN MORTIMER

Profession: Painter

Age: 25

Who is he? A suave and charming portrait painter, already the recipient of a bevy of prizes, whose ability to capture inimitable likenesses has earned him commissions from the likes of David Bowie and his wife Iman.

So how did he get where he is? In 1991, while still a student at the Slade, Mortimer won the prestigious BP Portrait Award. The National Portrait Gallery, as part of his prize, commissioned a portrait of Harold Pinter. This led to a flurry of commissions, although not everybody gave him *carte blanche*. Mortimer talks of having had to paint endless likenesses in muted colours, each subject with "a nice, straight nose and a nice glint in the eye. When I start putting bright colours in, people tend to go, 'Oh my God'." He soon became sick of compromising, and for the last year or so he has been holed up in his studio, working on non-commissioned paintings.

Does this mean no more portraits? No, but he would like to see patrons give him freedom to be himself, as Bowie did. Mortimer is now creating huge canvases that combine virtuoso technique with an interest in society's structures, and a critical examination of the ways in which the "high life" is depicted in glossies such as *Hello!* magazine and in society portraits (of which he himself is, of course, a master).

So Mortimer is mocking the very subject that has brought him success? In a way, yes. He wants to expose the superficiality of most depictions of the jet-set, while at the same time working to re-establish figurative painting alongside the other fashionable artistic mediums of the moment, such as installation art. "Figuration is dying. It is only dying because people, artists, don't want to put any colour or anything 20th-century into it. Conceptual art is about modern life: why can't figure painters do that?"

And now? His first solo London exhibition, just closed at the Blue Gallery in Knightsbridge, confirmed him as an artist to watch. His work and his personal confidence have begun to earn him coverage in the very magazines and circles he regards so critically. His latest venture is to star in a fashion shoot for Italian *Vogue*.

CHARLOTTE MULLINS

Soul diva Whitney Houston tells **Alan Jackson** why singing takes second place to acting these days

Coming up for air

Can the soundtrack album to Whitney Houston's second film, *Waiting to Exhale*, equal the success of *The Bodyguard*?

Clive Davis, president of the record label Arista and the man who groomed Whitney Houston for stardom, can hardly be accused of beating about the bush. "Ladies and gentlemen, the most successful female recording artist of all time," he announces proudly, and suddenly here she is, her features lit by a determinedly radiant smile. Retail buyers, television and radio programmers and media taste-makers from around the world have assembled in this Manhattan conference venue to warm themselves in its expensive glow — and give a listen to her latest waxing.

Houston sells so many records that the very fact of her releasing a new one is a significant event. If she feels pressurised by this fact, she does not let it show. Only later, curled in the armchair of a nearby hotel suite, does she partially drop her guard. "It's funny that I can sing in front of millions, and yet get nervous speaking even to ten," she says, then shrugs and deploys that smile again.

The occasion has been the launch of the soundtrack to a new film, *Waiting to Exhale*, based on the bestselling novel by Terry McMillan in which she co-stars with Angela Bassett, Lela Rochon and Loretta Devine. Expectations are sky-high because the soundtrack album to her movie debut, 1992's *The Bodyguard*, has now sold an astonishing 33 million copies. So how to follow it up?

Encouragingly, given the roll-call of female vocalists who have launched themselves successfully on a similarly bravura path in her wake (Mariah Carey, Celine Dion, Toni Braxton and now her young label-mate Deborah Cox), it is with a subtle yet insidious single, *Exhale*. Given the capabilities of Houston's voice, the initial reaction to hearing it may be one of surprise and disappointment, but on a second or third play it becomes irrevocably lodged in the brain. "He's been anointed by God," she says of the song's writer-producer Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds, who was also responsible for all but one of the 15 tracks on the album.

"I knew I wanted them all to be by other women, but I didn't realise I wanted them all to be by sisters," she says of the roster of black female talent she has chosen to be involved in the *Waiting to Exhale* album, from veterans such as Aretha Franklin, Patti Labelle and Chaka Khan to emerging young acts such as Mary J. Blige, Brandy and TLC. Such a bias suits the theme of McMillan's book — it is a story of four young African-Americans seeking emotional and career fulfilment, and sustained by their friendship — but is surprising in view of Houston's admission that she has few close female friends.

"I don't have a problem with other women, as long as they don't have a problem with me," she says smoothly. "But, for the most part, I find that they do." Then she shrugs and adds: "For some strange reason or other ... I really don't know why that should be." Of course, she knows only too well. At 32, she would appear to have it all, and in great abundance: talent, beauty, success and riches, even the partner and child (her daughter Bobbi Kristina is now nearly three years old) essential to any stereotypical achievement of the American Dream.

Her husband Bobby Brown's recent admittance to California's Betty Ford Clinic for treatment for drug and alcohol dependence has intensified speculation about the state of their union. But within the kiss-and-tell atmosphere of American showbiz, her firm policy of commenting not at all on the situation has appeared dignified, almost stoic. "Really, I have no comment to make," she says, with another bright but subject-changing smile.

Her acting debut set the tills ringing to an unexpected degree, and there was pressure to get back quickly in front of the cameras. "A lot of scripts were thrown at me, but I've never been one to choose something purely on the basis of wanting to capitalise on being hot. As with my records [it is now five years since her third studio album, *I'm Your Baby Tonight*], I'm very careful about how I present myself. Also, *The Bodyguard* saturated every market, had a very long run. I felt it was time to step back and wait."

Houston will, however, be making more films before returning to the recording studio. In January, she starts work on *The Preacher's Wife*, a remake of the 1948 romance *The Bishop's Wife*, in which she, Courtney B. Valance and Denzil Washington take on roles originally played by Loretta Young, David Niven and Cary Grant. She has also bought the cinema rights to a biography of the late American actress Dorothy Dandridge, further emphasising the fact that her across-the-board appeal can help to force Hollywood to move more quickly towards some semblance of racial equality in its promotion of both stars and subjects.

"I'm proud of the fact that *Waiting to Exhale* puts four African-American women on the screen together in a major studio release — that hasn't happened before," she says. "And I'm proud of the fact that I don't sing in the film."

So those who long to hear that Rolls-Royce among soul voices will have to content themselves with the three performances she has contributed to its soundtrack. "I don't know when I'll make another Whitney Houston album," she says. "The reaction to this film is just crazy, and I can only cope with one kind of crazy in my life at a time."

● *The single* Exhale *is out now on Arista; the soundtrack album of* Waiting to Exhale *is released on Monday. The film opens in Britain next spring*

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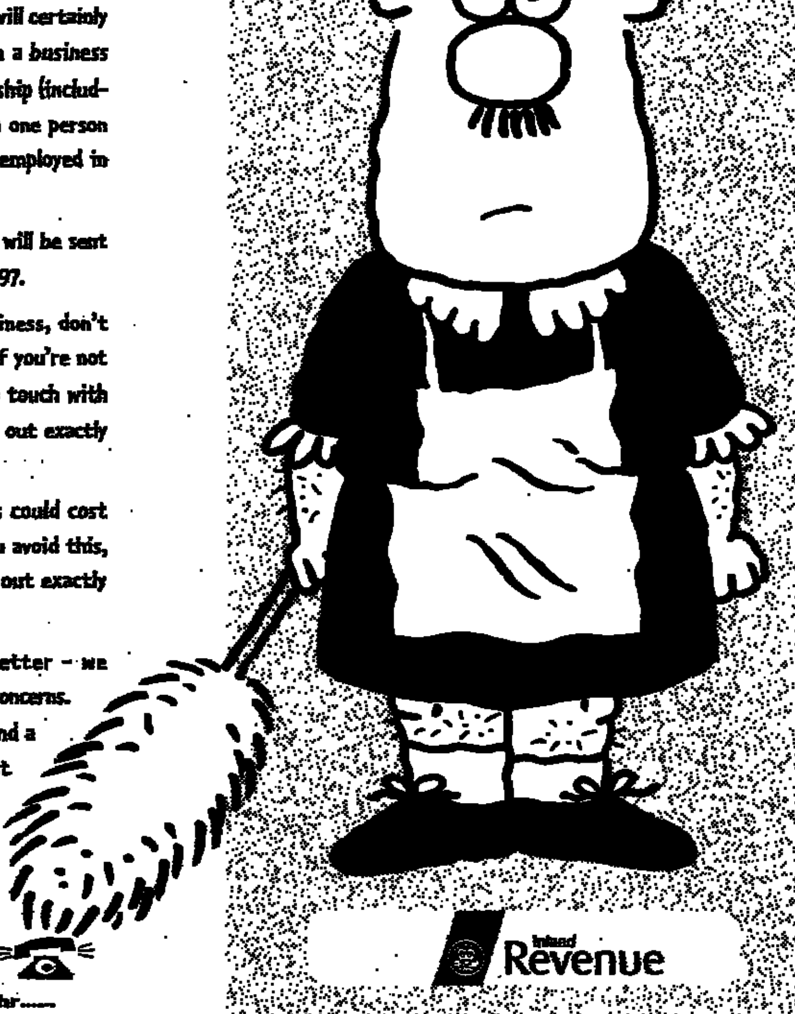

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Self Assessment-a clearer tax system

Beware the smacking police

Libby Purves says children need a firmer hand than this

I trust it is not yet illegal to smack the Gulbenkian Commission on Children and Violence. Naturally, it would be better to reason with it, tell it I am very, very disappointed, and send it to its bedroom. But oh, how the palm itches to deliver a smart clip across its backside!

There they sat at their press conference, well-meaning and wrinkled, the Great and the Good: safely past early parenthood, the kind of thoughtful reformers who when met separately (I can aver) may sheepishly admit that they slapped their own children once or twice in the 1960s, but "aren't proud of it". Yet now from comfortable Olympian heights they demand "an end to the legal tolerance of any level of violence against children". To wit, a ban on smacking. And in drawing all attention to this one absurd demand, they have blown their chance of doing real good to real families.

And no, commissioners, I don't care who started it. I am very cross with all of you. You had a lovely new commission and you spoilt it. You demanded an intrusive and unenforceable law. You provoked even me, which is quite an achievement: for I am a liberal, touchy-feely, child-centred and rather indulgent parent. Our children were smacked only between the ages of roughly three and six, and not often. I detested the court ruling supporting the man who hit his son with a belt, and would readily back a law against hitting a child with any instrument, or on the head.

But Epoch and the other campaigners will never qualify their demand, never fight a winnable battle against genuine cruelty. No: they want "any level" of what they call "violence" banned, and make it clear that they include the common-or-garden domestic slap on the bum. They even include "restraint"; ask them what to do when a child is attacking another or trying to gouge your eyes out because you won't buy another ice-cream and they glare at you and waffle about "positive parenting".

"Hitting children", says Sir William Utting, like a dear unworldly old grandfather, "teaches them that violence is the most effective means of getting your own way."

Wrong. Hitting — if you must call the odd mild slap by that emotive name — teaches children that persistent foul and anti-social behaviour can drive those who love you to their limits. Besides, the normal context of family life with small children is very physical indeed. They throw themselves on you and one other, punch, kick, romp, squabble and occasionally bite. You, in return, cuddle and carry, separate and restrain, and occasionally make like a mother cat and bap them. It is part of the language. It makes "No!" more dramatic. It is over in seconds. "No! I've told you three times! NO!" Smack, yowl, cuddle, "There's a good boy now, come on, let's go and see the ducks." This is less exhausting for all parties than the endless frigid nagging and "withdrawal of approval" and ostentatious taking down of gold stars from the chart, as recommended by the positive parenters.

Are you really saying that this low "level of violence" should be illegal? Are you going to load young parents with even more guilt and self-doubt? Is this piece of impossible controversialism worth the devaluing of the rest of your report, which ensures that the sensible bits won't be heard?

You, commissioners, have done children no service. You have handed a big stick to the grisly bunch of floggers on the far side of the argument, and left undefended the middle ground where children and parents thrive. It was just about tolerable to have the Chief Rabbi piously saying "We are told, the man who spares the rod hates his son" (you know my feelings about rods). But at the other extreme are those who regret the end of the tawse and the birch, and such specimens as Robert Lynn — a professor of psychology, no less, and director of the Ulster Institute for Social Research — who came up with this gem of psychological insight: "On the whole, middle-class children tend to learn [right from wrong] more easily. A raised voice may be all that is needed. Children born into the underclass may not learn so easily. A smack may be necessary."

> Children are not always amenable to verbal rebukes

Well, the idea of smacking the underclass for being born there will undoubtedly find enthusiasts. But experience of middle-class children casts grave doubt on the idea that ancestral Volvo ownership and regular dental care makes them amenable to verbal reproof. I have the scars to prove it. But this nonsense is your fault, commissioners: if you wave a stinking kipper, the local cats will gather.

You could have used this platform to talk about cleaning up foul estates, providing more and safer green places for children to play, and proper policing of their haunts. You could have pointed to the beneficial, if thinly spread, effect of neighbourhood clubs and mother-and-child groups and opportunities for teenagers to learn about parenthood in advance. You could have expressed support for stressed families, and pointed to the usefulness of things like the Family Holiday Association, which sends them away to the seaside to relax and let natural love flower afresh away from impossible surroundings. Or of those who run babysitting services to break up the grim cramped togetherness of poverty.

Instead, you asked for a law which would be draconian, unnatural and, almost worse, laughably unenforceable. On the same day, our local news carried a report on an estate where the fire brigade no longer dares answer 999 calls without a police escort. It didn't make the national media: too commonplace. How the smacking police are going to cope down there I cannot think.

Why are we still haunted by stories of the First World War, asks Magnus Linklater

When memories become too much

Revisiting old memories can be a profoundly emotional experience, as Enoch Powell reveals so movingly on television tonight. In the BBC2 film *Odd Man Out*, he sheds silent tears as he reads a verse he composed as a young man to a girl he loved and lost. It is a moment that will stay in the minds of all who watch it. "I am so overcome by emotion, old emotion," he said, "I failed. I was not satisfactory. That's it."

It was particularly affecting, because Mr Powell has always come across as a man in control of his feelings, the epitome of the classical mind in command of the romantic. But then I wondered whether that sense of something deeper had more to do with the memories of his generation, rather than just the man. One cannot quite call Powell (born in 1912) part of the First World War era, but he grew up in its shadow, and when those whose families lived through it think back, they are remembering something that touched them more than anything else this century. They are remembering not just lost youth, but the lost hopes of a generation.

When Vera Brittain wrote her *Testament of Youth* in 1933, she spoke of the "incomparable changes" that she had seen, but also of something which she felt had profoundly changed society. Her daughter, Shirley Williams, who wrote a preface to the new edition, said of the war: "It has marked all of us who were in any way associated with it, even at one generation's remove through our parents . . . Why are we so haunted? I think it is because of the terrible irony of war; the idealism and high-mindedness that led boys and men in their hundreds of thousands to volunteer to fight and often to die . . . the total imbalance between the causes for which the war was fought on both sides, [and] the scale of the human sacrifice."

As I watched Enoch Powell, I remembered my father and his ambivalent feelings about the war. He joined the 4th Gordons straight from Aberdeen Grammar School, aged 15, having lied about his age. He was spotted and promptly discharged because he was narrow-shouldered, short-sighted and far too small for his uniform. A year later, he lied again, added a year to his age, adjusted his eyesight and managed to get drafted into the Black Watch. Horribly wounded in the head in the German advance in March 1918, he was shipped back more dead than alive. His life had been saved by his sergeant, who dragged him back to safety. He managed to keep the helmet he was wearing at the time. It had a small, neat hole in the side, and a jagged one where the bullet had come out at the back.

How he survived I do not know, but ever afterwards he had a deep dent in the back of his head. As children we used to pretend to post letters in it. I was struck by the description given by Pat Barker, winner of the Booker Prize, of her grandfather, also wounded in the Great War. She remembers putting her fingers into the deep bayonet wound he had suffered. Our memories are remarkably similar.

But if war left its physical aftermath, the recollections were often buried deep. For most of his life, my father would never speak of the war. He had been a sniper, that we knew, but the only stories he told were jolly ones: how, on a forced march in the pouring rain, his battalion were ordered to remove their kilts and put them over their heads. He remembered the sight of bare bottoms under flapping grey shirts as one of rich humour. And he recalled too the line of wounded soldiers being delivered by train at Ostend, where the Indo-Chinese dockers fell about laughing at the sight of limping warriors, bandaged, crutch-aided, stretcher-carried, as they struggled towards the ships.

It was only in the last few years of his life that he began to speak of what had clearly been terrible scenes, of the Germans he had shot, the men he had seen being killed. These were stories which were painful to tell, and painful to listen to. They seemed to surface unbidden, as if it were impossible to keep them suppressed any longer. And one could understand why he had kept them buried so long. They revealed the huge gulf that lies between those who fought in and were affected by that war, and those for whom war was only an idea. What was unbridgeable too was the gap between the idealism which inspired those who set out to fight and the crushing of those ideals. It may even have echoed Enoch Powell's tortured thought that he had "failed".

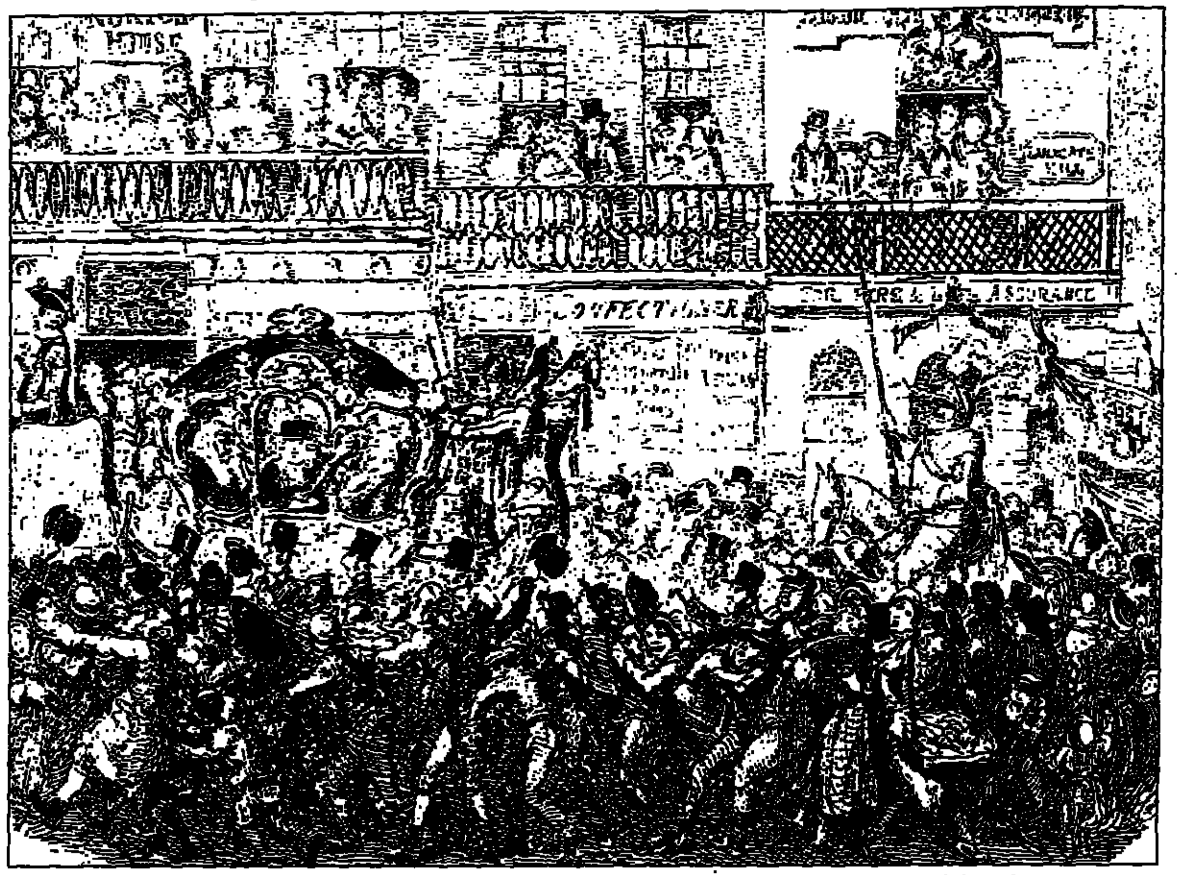
It may be that I exaggerate when I see something of that pain in Powell's recollections. But I fancy there is something in it, and that those of a diminishing generation who still feel the heavy hand of that war and its aftermath can never quite escape it. As Wilfred Owen wrote in *The Send-Off*:

> Shall they return to beatings of
> great bells
> In wild train-loads?
> A few, a few, too few for drums
> and yells . . .

A Lord Mayor for all

Give us the musketeers and we will bring democracy back to the capital — with pageantry to boot

Simon Jenkins



Cruikshank's view of the *Lord Mayor's Show*: but why stop at the limits of the City?

The Lord Mayor of London is dead, long live the Lord Mayor of London. This afternoon's Lord Mayor's Show is Britain's most exotic civic coronation. Marshals and musketeers, chamberlains and criers, swordbearers and serjeants-at-arms, pikemen and platemen in brass and leather will wander the bleak caverns of the City like extras from a Robin Hood movie. Aldermen, sheriffs and lieutenants will jostle with remembrancers and conveners. The mayoral coach will be dragged from its museum by Whitbread Shires to outdazzle even the chariots of the Crown. The show is a modern festival of the suits, a carnival of the uncamp. It is truly strange.

I used to attend the Lord Mayor's Show as a child, standing on tiptoe in the rain and trying to see the gilded coach drive by. Whom was I cheering? I knew the Queen ruled the world, but the Lord Mayor was merely a man who sat in a coach. He was certainly of parts. The spending demanded of his office was legendary. His banquets were gargantuan and he conducted his ceremonies under the eyes of those princes of darkness, Gog and Magog. But what was his job? Answer came there none.

In any other city in the world, that answer would be simple. The mayor runs the city. The mayor is elected by the citizens to spend their taxes and administer their services. He may be a tinpot Don Camillo or a heroic Willy Brandt. He may be a corrupt Marseillais or an extrovert New Yorker. Even in Belfast and Bristol, in Manchester and Newcastle, there is a mayor to open schools, welcome visitors and embody the spirit of the place. Mayors, potent or impotent, are symbols of cities and towns — in France even of villages. A community without a mayor is like a nation without a head of state. It can get along, but something is missing.

The Labour Party has long wanted to abolish the Mayor and Corporation as the democratic authority for the City of London. The 4,000 surviving residents, clinging to the cliffs and rookeries of the capital's central business district, would pass to adjacent boroughs. The Conservative Government sees no need for this, since it would like to end local democratic authorities full stop. It has no role for them. So the dear old City enjoys a charmed life. It obeys the iron law of institutional survival in Britain: you are left in peace provided you neither burden nor obstruct the agents of the Crown and take care to feed them well. When in 1985 the Greater London Council broke all three conditions, particularly the third, it was slaughtered.

The City is a glorious anachronism. It donates £800 million in business rates to the Exchequer as political Danegeld, more than the whole of Wales. For a quarter-century it has happily gone about its business, building itself mini-motorways, demolishing old buildings, piling up concrete, but otherwise adhering to Johnson's dictum that no man is more innocently employed than in getting money. The City does harm to no man — and to no women except those who presume to seek the mayoralty. Each year amid the November gloom, it summons hundreds of its commuters to come up to town on their day off, put on strange clothes and troop through otherwise deserted streets to the Temple bars. There they glare westwards over the thundering anvils of the glamorous, sinful, popular City of Westminster, and return to drown their pride in another Guildhall banquet.

One response to all this is that of the present Government. It holds that the British Establishment — judicial, legislative, ecclesiastical, academic, civic — suffers from a craving for ermine, tights and funny hats and for parading round an otherwise bleak townscape showing off. These people do not fight each other or frighten horses. Their impact on the public sector borrowing requirement is minimal. They satisfy tourism's yearning for photogenic eccentricity. Like the monarchy, they are a symbolic relic of days when the British constitution still displayed some separation of powers. As such they are an opium of the people and probably deserve a grant.

My response is different. When, at Margaret Thatcher's bidding, Kenneth Baker abolished the Greater London Council, he transferred virtually all of its powers to Whitehall. Few Londoners felt any immediate loss. Planning and transport became more corrupt and inept, and Exchequer spending on London soared. But that always happens when Tories turn corporatist. What Mr Baker did admit (and repeats in his memoirs) was that he found it hard to justify the fact that London no longer had anything that could pass for a "voice", in contrast to every other city in the world. In other words, shower London with junior ministers, quangos, patronage and cash, and still an ungrateful metropolis wants some distinct embodiment of its identity.

Even to a fanatical centralist such as Mr Baker this was mildly embarrassing. The rotting carcass of London democracy, County Hall, lies unburied on the banks of the Thames where Mr Baker slew it. In every opinion poll taken since then, Londoners have demanded a replacement, by a margin of five to one. They want an elected mayor or a chairman or a council or an assembly, anything that represents London at home and abroad as spokesman and cheerleader. At very least they want a "head of the civic state". Only the most cynical and undemocratic of politicians can dismiss this want as trivial.

I believe that this voice could be what it was at least until the explosion of London's borders in the last century: that of the City's Lord Mayor. The Corporation has power under existing statute to create a "joint committee". It could invite elected leaders from the 32 London boroughs to join such a committee as aldermen, who would in turn elect the Lord Mayor.

The City's domestic government need not be affected. The new mayor would have no powers other than those of example and persuasion. But he would be unequivocally the representative of the metropolis as a whole. He would have a democratic and geographical legitimacy that the present Lord Mayor lacks.

My impression is that the modern City Corporation is alive to its vulnerability. As a future Labour government casts its shadow forward, the City knows its arcane powers and privileges are at risk. The corporation might also recognise its historic status as fount and origin of London's prosperity (recounted in David Kynaston's admirable new history of the Victorian City). To offer at least a small first restoration of democratic government for all of London would honour that status. Such a mayor would be an elected official, indirectly elected to the office. With the perquisites of the Lord Mayoralty thrown in, he would be a public and visible face of the metropolis.

Then we would watch the Lord Mayor's Show come alive. Parades would come from Bermondsey and Southall, from Brixton and Ladbroke Grove, from Soho and Chinatown. There would be Napoleons from Notting Hill and Passports to Pimlico. The show would no longer have to stop at Temple Bar. It would take the royal road down the Strand to Trafalgar Square and spread its tentacles north, south, east and west. Downing Street would be appalled at these first stirrings of popular reaction against its contempt for local democracy. And there is nothing that could stop its progress — nothing short of Michael Howard's policemen. My Lord Mayor's musketeers should be a match for them.

BARD BITES BACK

Regretably, I cannot acknowledge the sackful of entries for my Bard Bites Back quiz. The first correct answer was from the Churcher family of Ashurst, Southampton, to whom the prize. The answers in sequence are: R & J III, ii; R & J, II, iv; Shrew, IV, iii; 3H6, V, v; Love's Lab, V, i; 1H4, V, iv; 1H4, I, iii; H5, V, ii; AYL, III, v; Much Ado, V, iv; Temp, II, ii; Lear, IV, vi; Love's Lab, V, ii; Hamlet III, ii; 1H4, II, iv; 1H4, V, iv; 1H6, III, iii; Wives, II, i; T Night, II, iii; T Night, II, v; Dream, V, i; Much Ado, V, ii; Timon, V, i; AYLI, III, ii; H8, V, i. *Thanks also to Patrick Barnett for:*

> And careful hours, with *Times* deformed hand
> Have written strange defeatures in my face. (*Comedy of Errors*, V,i)

THE TIMES DIARY

Wilde idea

THE LITERARY world is abuzz with news of a new award, to the tune of £30,000, to be announced by the Oscar Wilde Society. Beginning in 1997, on the centenary of Wilde's release from Reading Gaol, the award for unpublished new writers would be worth £7,000 more than the Whitbread and £10,000 more than the Booker.

The only hitch is finding sponsorship. A spokesman believes the British still find it hard to come to terms with the author's homosexuality. "When it's Oscar, it's very hard raising money," he declares. "We have approached the Japanese Wilde Society, where he is revered and taken very seriously."

Methuen, who reissued Wilde's work in 1910 after his death and contributed to his memorial window in Westminster Abbey, wants to publish the winning works, but will not contribute the prize money.

Geoffrey Strachan of Methuen says: "We've had tentative discussions. It is a good idea, and one that we are interested in, and personally I'm a great admirer of Wilde."

Merlin Holland, Wilde's grandson, is delighted. "It's a good idea, and one that has been brewing for a number of years," he says. "It will go towards helping people understand that there's a lot more to him than *The Importance of Being Earnest*."

- *Colonel Michael Vernon-Powell, a key figure in the Royal British Legion's campaign to reinstate Armistice Day's two minutes' silence today, cannot guarantee that all members of his own family will abide by it. His first grandchild, Harriet, was born yesterday.*

IF THAT'S A GOOGLY I'M A CHINAMAN

First green

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S decision to abandon his research into his Celtic roots (the genealogical trail is distinctly faint) leaves him with some spare time on his trip to Ireland later this month. Hence plans are being hatched to set up a game of golf at the famous Ballybunion course in Co Kerry with the legendary American player Tom Watson.

White House watchers say Clinton's game should not be underestimated. Since he has rebuilt the putting green, originally constructed by Eisenhower and then removed by Nixon, just 50 yards from the Oval Office he has been seen practising up to five times a week.

Girls, girls

HEADMISTRESSES are made of stern stuff, but the venue for the next Girls' Schools Association may test the nerves of the tweediest of their ilk. The 200 heads of girls' schools will gather next week at London's Cumberland Hotel. A convenient hostelry at the top of Oxford Street, the Cumberland is well known to gentlemen engaging in brief liaisons with the fairer sex. The bar is frequently the setting for such delights.

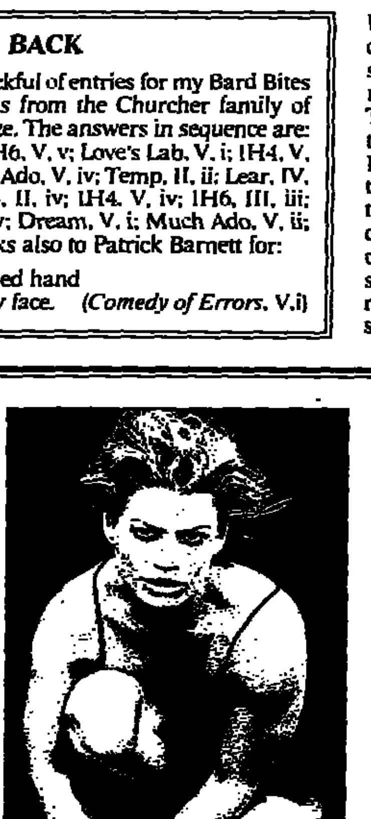
An association spokeswoman says that the president — Mrs Penelope Penney from Haberdashers' Aske's, Elstree, this year — picks the annual venue. "It is left *entirely* to the president's discretion," she says firmly. Headmistresses would be well advised to march in a crocodile.

Unattyred

WATCH OUT Windermere. The hellraising actor Mickey Rourke, in Britain with his model wife, Carré Otis, fancies a tranquil break in the Lake District. It may be much needed as the tattooed pair's relationship has been explosive and has included a period of estrangement after accusations — later dropped — that he had beaten her up.

But in the elegant surroundings of Spencer House, St James's, on Thursday night amid legions of rubber men in grey suits for the launch of Pirelli's 1996 calendar, in which Otis features, the couple bickered good-naturedly over the duet of lobster.

"We're here for a week," said Otis. "No, at least ten days," corrected Rourke. "A week. And *I* have to work!" "*I'm* on holiday and I want to stay in the Lakes." Otis stood up, collected her model friend Tatjana Patitz and the two teetered to the bathroom like a pair of giraffes.



Otis: better than Michelin man

Tam him

TONY BLAIR'S grip on his more rebellious MPs tightens daily. The latest convert may be Tam Dalyell, the veteran individualist who to date has gleefully stuck to his guns. For now word comes from Scotland that after 20 years opposing devolution, Dalyell will back the party line tomorrow.

Blair called in the Old Etonian in January for a ticking-off for speaking against devolution. Dalyell's constituency officials cringed at his refusal to sign the "claim of right", the document signed by all Labour's Scottish MPs. Now his agent, Brian Fairley, predicts a softer line. "Tam has given a categorical assurance that he will support any Bill all the way. He is absolutely clear on that."

By coincidence, the reselection process for Dalyell's Linlithgow seat also commences tomorrow.

And so to bed

WHEN YOU'VE been married for 56 years, what do you do for birthday presents? Michael Denison and Dulcie Gray, whose partnership must surely be one of the longest in the theatre, celebrated their 80th and 76th birthdays respectively with a party at the Lansdowne Club in Mayfair yesterday, attended by similarly venerable friends, including Sir John and Lady Mills, Donald Sinden and Sir Denis Compton. Denison explained that they had decided on a joint present: it was practical but not unromantic.

"We decided to buy a new mattress for our four-poster bed," he said. "We've been sleeping on the one we've got for 20 years and someone else had been sleeping on it for at least 20 years before that. It is full of ridges and furrows so we thought it was time we stretched to a new one."

P·H·S

هكذا من الاصل

ABACHA'S CRIME

A Nigerian noose around the neck of free speech

The execution of the Nigerian playwright Ken Saro-Wiwa, hanged with his eight colleagues yesterday, is an act of judicial murder. It followed, as John Major said yesterday, "a bad trial, a bad judgment and an unjust sentence". Even in a country which in recent years has made a habit of abusing its judicial machinery for political ends, the Nigerian regime's stubborn rejection of reason or mercy in this tragic case, whose victims have by no semblance of proof been found guilty of murder as charged, has particular power to anger.

There is special sadness in the persecution and ultimate silencing of Mr Saro-Wiwa as a writer, in a country once celebrated in Africa for the vividness of its literary life and the robust freedom of its press. In the 1993 prison diaries he wrote after an earlier arrest he wrote movingly of his "cell of the damned of the earth, who shriek and chant by turns". His crusade was not just for his own people, the Ogoni, but for all Nigerians, "leaderless and thoroughly misled". It must be continued.

There will be universal repugnance at the indignities thrust on these men from the moment of their arrest, and at the callousness shown to their anguished wives, denied even the right to take food and comfort to them in the last hours of their lives. There will be especial disgust that these men appear to have been put to death for the basest of reasons: the Nigerian dictatorship's determination to demonstrate its arrogant contempt for world opinion.

The announcement of the hangings followed within hours Nigeria's official confirmation that the unanimous and urgent plea for clemency by Commonwealth heads of government had been received by General Sani Abacha. The summit should immediately show the door to Nigeria's Foreign Minister, Tom Ikimi, whose sole purpose in coming to Auckland appears to have been to vilify the condemned men and to denounce international criticism as an "inquisition". Commonwealth leaders must, in their retreat this weekend, then face the fact that Nelson Mandela's preferred policy of "direct contact" with this vile regime self-evidently has no future.

Nigeria should be suspended forthwith from the Commonwealth: to do otherwise would be a betrayal of Nigeria's immiserated people. It has also to be faced, however, that Nigeria's junta probably does not care what the Commonwealth does. These executions are part of a countrywide repression of utter brutality, marked by arbitrary arrests, detention without trial, extrajudicial farce when trials do take place and prisons so calculatedly appalling that sickness and malnutrition are rife and on occasion fatal. There is absolutely no reason to believe that General Abacha or his henchmen will ever willingly relinquish power: they are too far steeped in blood to take the risk that the rule of law might once again apply in Nigeria.

Disgust must therefore be given further practical expression. The Commonwealth is placed to take a lead with an arms embargo which Britain should then seek to make mandatory under the United Nations. That will be the more effective if Nigeria's military men are denied the oil revenues which are their only means of paying for weaponry. There must be no more export credits; and no aid other than that channelled through voluntary agencies for strictly humanitarian purposes. There must be no rescheduling of the country's enormous debt, or welcome abroad for the representatives of this regime. By contrast to the freeze on official contacts, governments should adopt pragmatic, humanitarian policies towards Nigerians forced into exile by the regime's merciless repression of political dissent, and to the families of prisoners in need of temporary refuge.

Sanctions are a blunt and inefficient weapon and the argument that they hurt the poor before the rich has considerable force: but it scarcely applies to Nigeria. Its ruling kleptocrats have treated the country's oil wells as a lottery to which they alone have tickets. For ordinary people, the situation is already so desperate that they are reduced to subsistence. This is a national drama of which Mr Saro-Wiwa, from prison, lamented as far back as 1993: "I feel sad that I cannot contribute to the end." Britain must help to write the next chapter.

A DUTCHMAN DERAILED

Clinton talks about Nato leadership — but cannot deliver

Ruud Lubbers, The Netherlands' longest-serving Prime Minister this century and once a British-backed candidate to run the European Commission, yesterday withdrew as a candidate to become Secretary-General of Nato. He stepped back in the face of an American veto. A US Administration which professes itself keen to build up European influence over defence vetoed the man endorsed by Britain, France, Germany and Spain. The alliance should ask whether America had just cause to frustrate Mr Lubbers, for the use of Washington's blocking powers makes little sense.

When the beleaguered Willy Claes resigned last month, we argued that the new civilian head of the alliance needed to be someone of "exceptional stature and experience". Powerful voices in Washington felt that a heavyweight persuader was needed. Nato may have to put a sizeable peace force into the field in Bosnia at short notice; it must respond both to Eastern Europe's wish to join the alliance and Russia's fear of encirclement, and find itself a mobilising purpose for the future. Since the deployment of American troops in Bosnia will not be popular in Congress, the quality of Nato's advocacy matters.

But these questions did not open up for the first time when Mr Claes finally quit last month. There had been months of speculation over a Belgian bribery scandal. By last spring at the latest, Washington must have known that a new Secretary-General would be needed. A discreet search for stronger candidates should have produced clear results long before the job fell vacant. If America had been ahead, instead of behind, the game, its policymakers would have been able to conclude on the need to settle for a politician from a smaller state. Questioned about their ideal preferences, Washington officials have resorted to a diplomatic version of Fantasy Football, imagining dream candidates such as the German Defence Minister Volker Ruhe or Mr Douglas Hurd. One could add the claims of Lord Howe, Sir Leon Brittan, Mr Malcolm Rifkind or even Michael Heseltine. Such men are all admirably qualified but for one small snag: not one of them has shown both a convincing wish to do the job or a capacity to attract enough support to win.

When Claes left office, Britain, France and Germany kept in mind regular American appeals for Europe to act decisively and cohesively over defence, and made known their preference for Mr Lubbers. The suggestion from Washington that the endorsements of the Dutch candidate came as a surprise or *fait accompli* are ridiculous: The State Department maintains large embassies across Europe and at Nato which alerted Washington to the drift of events before John Major, President Chirac and Chancellor Kohl announced their support for Mr Lubbers.

The three leaders underestimated the superficial and chaotic manner in which transatlantic relations are now handled in Washington. Moved by fear that America would look weak in the face of European dictation, a show of strength was organised and Mr Lubbers derailed. If the Clinton Administration can either endorse Denmark's Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, a perfectly respectable candidate, or produce someone better, the affair will have left only a sour taste. But if deadlock now paralyses the alliance, President Clinton will have shown that he can talk energetically about American leadership in Nato but that he cannot exercise it.

MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR

Why the Beatles are still worth a souvenir

Today, in the Magazine, *The Times* devotes bright pages of text and photographs to a jaunty pop group from the past. Our aim is, in small part, to celebrate the forthcoming release of *The Beatles Anthology*, a collection of previously unpublished recordings of the Fab Four. Our broader aim, it must be said, is to emphasise the importance to Western popular culture of The Beatles — both as troubadors for a generation as well as the truthful mirror of an erratic decade.

The Beatles songs — from *Love Me Do* to *I Me Mine*, the last recorded — are no less than a musical Bayeux Tapestry for the Sixties. Serious historians should treat these recordings as among the period's most telling "documents", easily on a par with Cabinet papers, *samizdat* newspapers from Eastern Europe or Vietnam War records. In a subtle book about the Beatles called *Revolution in the Head* — as scholarly as it is star-struck — Ian MacDonald argues that the group "were the authentic religious voice of the Atomic Age", a voice which has now "passed into the pantheon of permanent regard".

That last phrase is the most acute, for it speaks of a spell that is more powerful by far than mere nostalgia. Of course it is the Sixties generation, now grown as middle-aged as its beloved Liverpudlian quartet, which is still most devoted to the music and meaning of The Beatles. But younger listeners, many born after the group dissolved its partnership — and to whom the Sixties must seem like a time of enviable optimism — are almost as much in The Beatles' thrall. To them the joyous energy of, say, *I Want To Hold Your Hand* — if not the culturally subversive charge it packed in its time — is as immediately apparent as in any modern song.

That song was recorded in October 1963. Two months later William Mann, then the music critic of *The Times*, wrote in praise of the Beatles, perhaps a touch daringly for the paper at the time. At the end of an essay littered with references to their music's intriguing "pandiatonic clusters" and "the Aeolian cadence at the end of *Not A Second Time*", he concluded disarmingly that the group had "brought a distinctive and exhilarating flavour into a genre of music that was in danger of ceasing to be music at all". The rest is history.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

A firmer way to deal with debtors

From Mr Paul M. Stevenson

Sir, Professor Nick Wilson, in his article "Should late payers be punished by law?" (Focus on Factoring and Invoice Discounting, November, 3) points out that only 17 per cent of small companies in Germany rely upon a bank overdraft, compared with 42 per cent in Britain.

Germany is noted as a country for prompt payment, probably helped by the discounts offered, but British companies seem to suffer from an inability to ask for payment at the correct time. Is this because we are afraid of confrontation or of losing custom? The majority of companies appear to have a collection system that only comes into action when the debt is *overdue*.

Why are these companies not contacting their customers *before* the debt is due for settlement, to confirm that payment is going to be made on or before the due date and at the value expected? If debtors are listed in descending order of balance outstanding, you might only need to contact 20 per cent of customers to cover 80 per cent of the ledger by value.

Surely, we should be more proactive in our approach to outstanding debtors rather than being reactive, as in the past. A proactive system, correctly managed, will release internal funds previously locked up in overdue debts. This in turn will reduce the reliance on funding from third parties.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL M. STEVENSON,
Paul Stevenson Consulting,
10 Torrington Road,
Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.

From Mr Christopher Tong

Sir, As we approach the 1995 Budget I suspect that the small-business community will once again be disappointed with the Government's failure to tackle the issue of late payment of accounts.

Making late payment unprofitable or illegal would have two effects. Firstly, there would be a large injection of cash into the small-business sector as the offending (normally much larger) organisations adjusted their trade creditors from between 60 and 90 days outstanding, down to 30 days. This would quickly improve the liquidity and therefore the viability of many small businesses.

Secondly, the amount of bank borrowing and invoice factoring would drop by a significant amount in the medium and long term as businesses were able to finance more of their working capital through the credit cycle.

Among the losers would be the larger corporations, who view late payment as a legitimate financing tool; the banks, who would see a reduction in loan and overdraft income; and the factoring companies, who flourish on the late-payment gravy train. The latter companies, of course, are often owned by the banks anyway.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER TONG,
22 Kineton Road, Upper Shirley,
Southampton, Hampshire.
November 6.

Weekend Money letters, page 39

Death of Rabin

From Dr Mehrdad Khonsari

Sir, It is ironic that the death of Yitzhak Rabin, the assassinated Prime Minister of Israel, should have provided all fanatics in the region with a common cause for celebration. The fact that fanatical Jews in Israel have found a point of commonality with fundamentalist Muslims in Iran, and radical socialists of the Arab kind in Libya, serves only to highlight the needed resolve to strive even harder for the attainment of peace and other civilised values in the region.

Any alternative leaves nothing but death and destruction. Even a cursory glance at the record of all those who have expressed joy at the death of Rabin shows why they must not be allowed to prevail.

Yours faithfully,
M. KHONSARI,
PO Box 326,
London SW15 3NN.
November 8.

From Mr A. A. S. Zuckerman

Sir, Amos Os writes in his article about the assassinated Israeli Prime Minister ("Zealot's bullet shatters sacred values of Israel", November 7) that "the fertile ground for fanaticism is hopelessness, despair and disorientation".

If only things were so simple. Jewish fundamentalism has sprung and thrived in an affluent society. The fundamentalist settlers are economically comfortable middle-class people, often with a second home inside the pre-1967 borders.

Not infrequently they are immigrants from enlightened Western countries who went to Israel not because of privation but because there they could give expression to their fanaticism. The source of their attitude is profoundly cultural.

Yours truly,
ADRIAN ZUCKERMAN,
University College, Oxford.
November 7.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

The merits of mediation in divorce

From the General Secretary of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation

Sir, While the fate of the Divorce Bill hangs in the balance, the frequently forgotten element — as your leader of November 6 points out — remains the welfare of the children involved. Opponents of the Bill are, wittingly or unwittingly, continuing a system which is flawed by the friction it generates between separating parents and the damage that ensues for the children of the failed, or failing, relationship.

Every year the Probation Service, through its family court welfare officers, prepares over 34,000 welfare reports and acts in 19,000 mediation cases between separating partners. This work gives our officers a clear insight into the lasting suffering separation can bring upon the children involved, and the news of a threat to the Lord Chancellor's proposals has been met with horror and anger.

The present system is unsatisfactory as it fuels the acrimony between partners. To obstruct the Bill, burdening the children with the bitterness created between the two partners, only prolongs and deepens this suffering.

Our work has always been to protect the interests of the child but it appears that these interests have been shamefully overlooked by those trying to bring down the Bill. It will be a very sad day for all those children if they succeed and the Bill is excluded from forthcoming legislation.

Yours faithfully,
MARY HONEYBALL,
General Secretary,
Association of Chief Officers
of Probation,
212 Whitechapel Road, E1.
November 6.

From Dr Alan Cock

Sir, The President of the Law Society (letter, November 7) overlooks the major part played by his own profession in making divorce proceedings more hostile and acrimonious. Many divorced persons will testify that they had begun divorce in a good spirit: the trouble began once they consulted solicitors.

It would be unfair to blame this entirely on solicitors: each acts for one party only, and it is his professional duty to advise the client to claim the best possible settlement. There will always be a grey, disputable area, and that is where most of the rancour originates.

I disagree emphatically with the suggestion of Mrs Avril Links (letter, same date) that mediation should be seen as an optional extra, to be undertaken only after adversarial negotiations. On the contrary, it should come first, before consultations with solicitors have had a chance to sour the atmosphere.

As for myself, my wife and I separated 14 years ago, but we agreed to postpone divorce indefinitely, so as to preserve her right to a valuable widow's pension under my occupational scheme. Once the Pensions Bill has completed its passage through Parliament, we shall be able, in the modern fashion, to make "respectable divorced persons" of each other.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN COCK,
83 Roselands Gardens,
Southampton, Hampshire.
November 7.

From the Director of National Family Mediation

Sir, Mediation, writes Mrs Links, "should be an 'optional extra' after independent advice on rights and obligations has been obtained, not a compulsory first stop". Her argument is based on two misapprehensions.

As the Lord Chancellor has made clear in his speech to the Solicitors Family Law Association (report, November 8) it is not proposed that mediation will be compulsory: the Government White Paper states that it should be voluntarily entered and family mediators view compulsory mediation as a contradiction in terms.

Nor is it viewed by us or the White Paper as an "optional extra" to legal *advice* but an alternative to legal *representation*, where appropriate: family mediators wish clients to have legal advice at the beginning and end of mediation and specialist legal advice during the process when needed.

Current mediation sessions do not seem to us to be "sullen", as the President of the Law Society suggests in his accompanying letter. If couples choose to come to mediation in good time then they become actively involved in resolving or, at times, preventing their disputes by negotiation.

Yours faithfully,
THELMA FISHER,
Director,
National Family Mediation,
9 Tavistock Place, WC1.
November 7.

From Canon Donald Nicholson

Sir, In the belief that the great Dr Johnson had an appropriate comment to make on any topic in any century, I would like to offer Lord Mackay this relevant observation:

> I believe marriages would in general be as happy, and often more so, if they were all made by the Lord Chancellor, upon a due consideration of characters and circumstances, without the parties having any choice in the matter (Boswell, *Life of Johnson*, under March 22, 1776).

Yours faithfully,
DONALD NICHOLSON,
St Margaret's Convent,
17 Spital, Aberdeen.
November 6.

Booker judgment

From Mr C. M. Chadwick

Sir, It seems from your report today some people were surprised that Pat Barker won the Booker Prize. Anyone who has read her trilogy (*Regeneration* (1991), *The Eye in the Door* (1993) and now *The Ghost Road*) would be astonished if she hadn't.

The trilogy is one of the major literary achievements of our time and puts most other contemporary fiction in the shade. It sets the standard. It is a sign of the "tyranny of ordinariness" which George Walden writes about ("Why Pat Barker won the Booker", November 8) that so much of relatively little worth gets puffed up in the literary pages and nothing stands out.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES CHADWICK,
25a Denning Road, NW3.
November 8.

From Mr Peter Kemp

Sir, When you judge the Booker Prize, you expect to read a lot of fiction, but it's a surprise to find that some of it is written in newspapers, and about oneself (report, November 9).

The judges did not arrive for the final meeting "convinced" that Salman Rushdie would win. I was not "an implacable opponent of Rushdie from the outset", nor had I previously written "a hostile review" of his novel (I described it, among much other praise, in *The Sunday Times* as "a triumph of imaginative indomitability"). My fellow-judge, Adam Mars-Jones, was certainly not "less decided" about Pat Barker and Rushdie than I was, and I did not, as your reporter bizarrely claims, sway the other judges against *The Moor's Last Sigh* by "a detailed critique of the last 50 pages".

Most of all, the report misrepresents our meeting by ignoring its decisive feature: the keenly argued admiration and enthusiasm of four of the judges for the novel to which we gave the award.

Yours sincerely,
PETER KEMP
(Fiction Editor),
The Sunday Times,
1 Pennington Street, E1.
November 9.

Britain and EU

From Mr Andrew Mitchell

Sir, In his enthusiasm to turn a reasonable argument (that Britain should not neglect the developing markets of the Commonwealth) into yet another diatribe against the European Union, William Rees-Mogg ("The Queen's growth area", November 9) allows the facts to go by the wayside.

He claims that "the high growth markets of the Commonwealth alone are 25 times as large as those of the European Union". Yet, with a combined population of around 350 million, the original EU "group of 12" accounts for in excess of 6 per cent of the *total* population of Earth and, taken as a whole, Western Europe accounted for just under 50 per cent of world trade in 1992. British business must, of course, look to the markets of the future; however, it would be suicidal to prejudice our involvement in the markets of today.

Perhaps the most interesting revelation to emerge from Lord Rees-Mogg's flawed analysis was the fact that Britain, during the "core" period of Conservative rule, was only the 10th best performer in the "high cost, high tax, high unemployment, low growth area" which is the EU.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW MITCHELL,
56 Esmond Road, W4.

Powell's choice

From Mr David Montrose

Sir, Perhaps Colin Powell's decision not to run for President (leading article, November 9) was influenced by Tacitus's remark about Galba, an extremely successful general who became an extremely unsuccessful emperor: "Everyone agreed that he was capable of ruling imperial qualities — had he not ruled."

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MONTROSE,
30 Caverswall Road,
Blythe Bridge, Staffordshire.
November 10.

Happy returns, at last

From Mrs Nicky Phillips

Sir, I am overwhelmed by the generous response of your readers to my letter of November 3, lamenting my difficulty in obtaining a card to mark my godson's confirmation [see also letters, November 7 and 8].

Should anyone else experience similar difficulties, I am now flush with cards, catalogues and suggestions.

Yours gratefully,
NICKY PHILLIPS,
16 Burns Green,
Benington, Hertfordshire.
November 8.

Views on best of modern preaching

From Mr B. W. Hearn

Sir, I suppose it was only to be expected in these uncertain times that the winning sermon in the "Preacher of the Year" competition should be one that gives greatest respect to a self-confessed unbeliever, mentioning her name eight times and that of Jesus but once (Credo, November 4).

No doubt the atheist among the judges was impressed by that. Nothing to challenge him there.

Yours faithfully,
B. W. HEARN,
5 Laurel Close, Hutton,
Brentwood, Essex.
November 6.

From Mr Cyril D. Hore

Sir, I was privileged to attend St Pancras church in Euston, north London, for the final of the "Preacher of the Year" competition (report, November 2). It was an exhilarating and uplifting experience and I listened to every word — an unusual experience for me when listening to a sermon.

You are to be congratulated on your bold sponsorship and coverage of this unique event. Thanks, too, to Ruth Gledhill for her promotion and publication of *The Times Book of Best Sermons*.

I look forward to next year already.

Yours faithfully,
CYRIL D. HORE,
Rustlings, 65 Locks Ride,
Ascot, Berkshire.
November 6.

From Miss M. H. Henderson

Sir, As the "Preacher of the Year" award involves competition, personal publicity and the chance of material gain it is certainly in keeping with today's values.

I am not a churchgoer, but wonder if there may be a few unworldly souls who find the contest inappropriate.

Yours sincerely,
MARY HENDERSON,
50 Rowans Park,
Lymington, Hampshire.
November 5.

Dome as hoarding

From Mr Joe Stuart-Smith

Sir, With the cathedral authorities deciding to allow the dome of St Paul's Cathedral to be used to advertise chocolate bars (photograph, November 7), one wonders how long it will be before the clergy will wear "ecclesiastical strips" to advertise local events and products in order to raise money for church funds?

Yours faithfully,
JOE STUART-SMITH,
Dunn Street Farm,
Westwell, Ashford, Kent.
November 7.

From Mrs J. F. N. Hodgkinson

Sir,

> And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves,
>
> And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.
>
> (Matthew xxi, 12 and 13.)

The Dean and Chapter of St Paul's should bow their heads in shame.

Yours faithfully,
DOROTHY M. HODGKINSON,
59 Whitfield Avenue,
Newcastle-under-Lyme,
Staffordshire.
November 12.

Music on radio

From Mrs Elizabeth Marshall

Sir, As a regular listener to Radio 3, I was sad at the decision to move *Composer of the Week* from the 9am slot but being — I like to think — open-minded and not normally given to complaining, I decided to wait and see what the replacement was like. The sad fact is that the morning drive to work is no longer the pleasure it was.

The Controller of Radio 3 may see Classic FM as a threat, and it soon will be if he carries on with his present policy; I regard them as complementary, so should not their styles be different?

But, given the choice of jolly Irish (Classic FM) or pretentious American (Radio 3) at 9 in the morning, I for one am opting for the Irishman.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH MARSHALL,
Lansdell House,
Rolvenden, nr Cranbrook, Kent.

Double indemnity?

From the Mayor of Bromley

Sir, So the word "twinners" is not allowed in a Scrabble competition (report, November 6). We have been using it since 1987, when our borough was twinned with Neuwied in Germany, and it was certainly a part of the language before that.

Perhaps the editor of *Chambers Dictionary* (which gives "twinned" and "twinning") could think of a better term for "people who twin".

Yours literally,
CHARLES G. PRIEST
(President, Bromley Town
Twinning Association),
Civic Centre,
Stockwell Close, Bromley, Kent.

COURT CIRCULAR

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
AUCKLAND
November 10: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh today gave a Reception for Commonwealth Ministers and Senior Officials at Government House.

Commonwealth Heads of Government were received by Her Majesty this afternoon.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this evening gave a Reception and Dinner for Commonwealth Heads of Government at the Regent Hotel, Auckland.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness later left Auckland International Airport for London.

The Duke of Edinburgh this morning presented prizes to school children for the Kokako Conservation Poster Competition for the National Kokako Recovery Plan at New Zealand National Maritime Museum Convention Centre, Auckland.

His Royal Highness this afternoon presented The Duke of Edinburgh's Cup at the Royal Akarana Yacht Club on the occasion of the Club's centenary.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by the Baroness Miller of Hendon (Baroness in Waiting) at the Funeral of the Lord Bottomley (a former Cabinet Minister) which was held in St Mary's Church, Walthamstow, this afternoon.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were represented by Vice Admiral Sir James Weatherall (Marshall of the Diplomatic Corps) at the Funeral of His Excellency Mr Kenneth Dadzie (High Commissioner for Ghana in London) which was held in Methodist Central Hall, Storey's Gate, SW1, this evening.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 10: The Duke of York this morning attended a Service for Receiving the Fleet Air Arm Roll of Honour at the Fleet Air Arm Memorial Church, Yeovilton, Somerset.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 10: The Prince Edward this morning arrived in Adelaide, South Australia, and was received by Her Excellency the Honourable Dame Roma Mitchell (Governor of South Australia).

His Royal Highness this evening attended the Welcome Reception for the delegates of the International Council of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association and later attended the Australian Grand Prix Ball in the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 10: The Princess Royal this morning visited Worksop College, Worksop, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire (Sir Andrew Buchanan, Bt).

Her Royal Highness, Patron, The Basic Skills Agency, today visited H.M. Prison Ranby, Retford, Nottinghamshire.

The Princess Royal, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, this afternoon visited F.J. Bamkin and Son Limited, Portland Road, Hucknall, Nottingham.

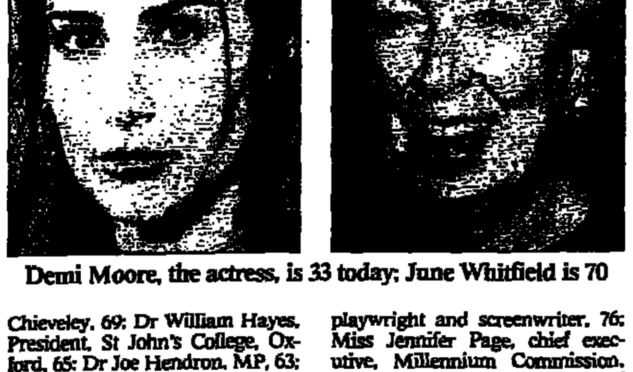
Her Royal Highness, President, Save the Children Fund, later visited The Save the Children Fund Shop, 25/29 Derby Road, Nottingham.

Mrs Timothy Holderness-Roddam was in attendance.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Professor T.E. Allibone, physicist, 92; Mrs Jane Barker, former finance director, London Stock Exchange, 46; Mr Harry Bramma, director, Royal School of Church Music, 59; Lord Carr of Hadley, 79; Rear-Admiral Sir Nigel Cecil, 70; Lord Dainton, 81; Mr Jonathan Fenby, former Editor, *The Observer*, 53; Mr Ron Greenwood, former England football manager, 74; Air Marshal Sir Donald Hall, 65; Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, OM, 75; Sir Harold Kent, QC, 92; Mr Rodney Marsh, cricketer, 48; Miss Cristina Odone, Editor, *Catholic Herald*, 35; Dr Indraprasad Patel, former Director, London School of Economics and Political Science, 71; Professor C. Bruce Perry, physician, 92; Mr Terence Rooney, MP, 45; Mr Richard Rowe, racehorse trainer, 36; Mr John Sheffield, former chairman, Norcros, 82; Sir Peter Shepheard, architect, 82; General Sir Walter Walker, 83; Lord Wolfson, 68.

TOMORROW: Dame Peggy Fenner, MP, 73; Lord Goff of Chieveley, 69; Dr William Hayes, President, St John's College, Oxford, 65; Dr Joe Hendron, MP, 63; Mr J.A.S. Ingamells, former director, The Wallace Collection, 61; Mr M.A. Lang, Headmaster, Durham School, 56; Sir Peter Lloyd, MP, 58; Professor Christina Lyon, professor of law, 43; Sir Ronald Millar, playwright and screenwriter, 76; Miss Jennifer Page, chief executive, Millennium Commission, 51; Sir William Sutherland, Chief Constable, Lothian and Borders, 62; Professor John Tarrant, Vice-Chancellor, Huddersfield University, 54; Prebendary Chad Varah, founder, The Samaritans, 84.


Demi Moore, the actress, is 33 today; June Whitfield is 70

Anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: Fyodor Dostoyevsky, novelist, Moscow, 1821; George Patton, American general, San Gabriel, California, 1885; Iain Macleod, politician, Skipton, Yorkshire, 1913.
DEATHS: Sören Kierkegaard, philosopher, Copenhagen, 1855; Ned Kelly, outlaw, hanged, Melbourne, 1880; Thomas Trollope, writer, Clifton, Avon, 1892; Sir Edward German, composer, London, 1936; Sir Alan (A.P.) Herbert, writer and politician, 1971.
The Allies and Germany signed an armistice at 11am, 1918.
TOMORROW
BIRTHS: Alexander Borodin, composer, St Petersburg, 1833; Auguste Rodin, sculptor, Paris, 1840; Grace Kelly, Princess Grace of Monaco, actress, Philadephia, 1929.

DEATHS: Canute the Great, King of England 1016-35 and of Denmark 1035, Shaftesbury, Dorset, 1035; Elizabeth Gaskell, novelist, near Alton, Hampshire, 1865; Percival Lowell, astronomer, Flagstaff, Arizona, 1916; Baroness Emmuska Orczy, novelist, London, 1947.

Reception

HM Government
Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, Minister of State at the Scottish Office, was the host at a reception held yesterday in Edinburgh Castle to mark the passing of the Children (Scotland) Act.

Symposium

Women and Children's Welfare Fund
The Marchioness of Salisbury, the Earl of Perth and the Marchioness of Lothian received the guests at a symposium held yesterday at the Royal Society of Arts for the Women and Children's Welfare Fund. Professor N. Fisk, Dr V. Glover and Professor N. McIntosh spoke.

Royal engagements

TODAY: The Prince of Wales will attend the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall at 7.00. The Duke of York, the Princess Royal, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and Princess Alexandra will also attend.

The Duke of Gloucester, as Grand Prior of the Order of St John, will be present at the Lord Mayor's Day at Guildhall at 9.00 and will take part in the Lord Mayor's procession. Later he will attend as luncheon at Mansion House at 2.10.

TOMORROW: The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend the Remembrance Day service at the Cenotaph at 11.00. The Prince of Wales, the Duke of York, the Princess Royal and Captain Timothy Laurence, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and Princess Alexandra will also attend.

The Prince of Wales, as Colonel of the Welsh Guards will attend the Welsh Guards Remembrance Sunday Service in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, at 12.40.

Thanksgiving service

Sir Peter Lazarus
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Peter Lazarus, KCB, will be held at 7pm on Wednesday, December 6, 1995, at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, 28 St Johns Wood Road, London, NW8.

Lord Mayor of London

Alderman John Chalstrey was admitted as the 668th Lord Mayor of London yesterday.

Service dinners

41 Commando Royal Marines
Major C.E. Walker presided at the annual dinner of the 41 Commando Officers' Dinner Club held last night at Royal Marines Poole.

Royal Military Police and Provost Officers
The annual reunion dinner of past and present Royal Military Police and other Provost Officers was held last night at the RMP Officers' Mess, Chichester. Major-General C.B.Q. Wallace, Colonel Commandant, presided. Brigadier I.W. Fulton, Provost Marshal (Army), and Brigadier N.C. Allen, Chairman of the RMP Association, were among those present.

Headquarters Strike Command
Air Chief Marshal Sir William Wratten, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Headquarters RAF Strike Command, and Lady Wratten received the guests at a ladies guest night dinner held last night at RAF High Wycombe. Group Captain A.C. Montgomery presided.

Dinners

Staffordshire Lieutenancy
The Deputy Lieutenants of Staffordshire last night entertained the Lord Lieutenant, Mr James Hawley, at dinner at the County Buildings, Stafford. The Vice Lord Lieutenant, Colonel D.J.German, presided.

Cordwainers' Company
Vice-Admiral Sir Neville Purvis and Mr Robet Seabrook, QC, Master of the Curriers' Company, were the guests of honour at a dinner of the Cordwainers' Company held last night at the Law Society. Mr Christopher King, Master, presided and Mr Christopher Weber-Brown also spoke. During the dinner the Master presented annual awards for the best trained soldier and best recruit to the Officer Commanding, C (City of London Fusiliers) Company, The London Regiment.

Musicians' Company
The following have been installed officers of the Musicians' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr F.A.A. Carnwath; Senior Warden, Mr A.M. Burnett-Brown; Junior Warden, Mr F.N. Fowler. Afterwards, The Master presented the annual prizes to musicians from the Musical Conservatoires and Military Academies and presided at a dinner at Stationers' Hall. Mr Marcus Binney, President of SAVE, was the guest speaker.

Company of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators
Mr Clifford Grinsted, Master of the Company of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, presided at a livery dinner held last night at Barber-Surgeons' Hall. Group Captain John Constable, secondary and under-sheriff, and Air Vice-Marshal Jack Furner also spoke. Earlier, Letters of Association were signed between the Company and the staff and the Personnel Support branch of the Adjutant General's Corps.

Forces appointment

Royal Navy
Commodore A.B. Ross to be appointed Rear-Admiral and to be Assistant Director Operations Division International Military Staff in succession to Major-General K. Bromeis, German Army, in August.

Forthcoming marriages

**Captain C. Bailey
and Miss C.L. Tate**
The engagement is announced between Captain Christopher Bailey, The Royal Dragoon Guards, elder son of Lieutenant Commander and Mrs Nicholas Bailey, of Hambledon, Hampshire, and Charlotte Louise, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Tate, of Heasley Mill, Devonshire.

**Mr G.H. Bantick
and Miss J.E. Masters**
The engagement is announced between Granville, son of the late Mr and Mrs H.S. Bantick, of Headcorn, Kent, and Jenny Elisabeth, eldest daughter of the late Mr and Mrs John Masters, of Cranbrook, Kent.

**Mr S. Bower
and Miss R.S. Block**
Mr Sam Block and Mrs Sue Blackie, of East Anglia, are pleased to announce that their youngest daughter, Rebecca, is to marry Steven, son of Mr and Mrs Herbert Bower, of Liverpool, next year.

**Mr R.T. Coulthard
and Miss L.J. Miller**
The engagement is announced between Roger, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Coulthard, of Stockdalewath, Carlisle, and Lucinda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jock Miller, of Piltdown, East Sussex and Hong Kong.

**Dr S. Grimshaw
and Dr M.S. Thevasagayam**
The engagement is announced between Steven, son of Mr and Mrs P.J. Grimshaw, of Lower Kingswood, and Mahilradha, daughter of Dr and Mrs E.S. Thevasagayam, of Colombo, Sri Lanka.

**Mr G.C. Hatt
and Miss L.E. Crawford**
The engagement is announced between Graham, twin son of Mr and Mrs Stanley Hatt, of Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead, and Lucy, only daughter of Dr and Mrs Lionel Crawford, of Shotley, Suffolk.

**Mr H-L. Hüet
and Miss T.R.C.M. de Weck**
The engagement is announced between Hubert-Lance, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Guy Hüet, of Versoix, Switzerland, and Tatiana, younger daughter of Countess Rüdt von Collenberg and the late Mr Clarence de Weck, of Lausanne, Switzerland.

**Mr J. Blinko
and Miss L. Rich**
The engagement is announced between Jack, son of Mr Percy Blinko and the late Mrs Dorothy Blinko, of London, and Lucy, daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs James Rich, of London.

**Dr G.I. Mather
and Dr A.J. Fawdry**
The engagement is announced between Gregory, only son of Mr and Mrs Tom Mather, of Long Eaton, Nottingham, and Alison, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Rupert Fawdry, of Milton Keynes.

**Mr A.H. Peden
and Miss K.J. Murray**
The engagement is announced between Alexander Howard, son of Mr and Mrs R. Peden, of Petts Wood, Kent, and Kirsteen Jean, daughter of Mr and Mrs T.M. Murray, of Petts Wood, Kent.

Marriages

**Mr G. Beaufoy
and Señorita C. Salguero-Herrera**
The marriage took place on Saturday, November 4, at the Cathedral of Santa Maria, Cáceres, Spain, between Guy Beaufoy, formerly of Kenilworth, Warwickshire, and Concha Salguero-Herrera, of Cáceres.

**Mr J.W. Bevan
and Miss A.J. Barham**
The marriage took place on Saturday, November 4, at St Mary the Virgin, Haughley, Suffolk, of Mr James Bevan to Miss Alexandra Barham. Mr Philip Gordon was best man.

A reception was held at Plashwood and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

**Dr M.A. Gray
and Dr J.K. Parker**
The marriage took place on Saturday, October 28, 1995, at Emmanuel College Chapel, Cambridge, of Mark, only son of Mr and Mrs Ronald Gray, of Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire, to Jane, elder daughter of the late J. Campbell Parker and of Mrs Jean Parker, of Edinburgh. The Rev Jeremy Caddick officiated.

**Sir Bob Scott
and Ms A.E. Tomalino**
The marriage took place on Friday, November 3, in Bermuda, of Sir Bob Scott and Ms Alicia Tomalino.

St Catharine's College, Cambridge

The new all weather hockey pitch, which was built through the generous donation of Mr Peter Boizot, MBE, was officially opened on November 8, 1995, in the presence of Lord Butterfield, Sir Terence English, KBE, The Master, and members of St Catharine's College and guests. The teams participating in a series of exhibition matches included the College Mens and Ladies 1st XI, an Old Members XI, the Cambridge University 1st XI and Mr Peter Boizot's international team.

Luncheon

ABC Club
Sir Charles Alexander presided at the annual luncheon of the ABC Club held yesterday at Merchant Taylors' Hall. Among those present were:
Mr N. Burston, Mr A Hart, Mr R Hedderwick, Mr M Hinton, Mr C Rawson and Mr P Theobold.

Church services tomorrow

Remembrance Sunday

ABERDEEN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.15 SE, Jackson in G, So they gave their bodies (Aston), The Provost; 6.30 ES, Holy is the true light (Shephard), Responses (Neary), Walmisley in D minor, Greater Love (Ireland), The Provost.

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch, Holy is the true light (Harris), Jackson in G, Greater love (Ireland); 3.30 Royal British Legion Service, Preces (Leighton), Wood in D, O pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Howells).

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 10.50 Choral Euch & Act of Remembrance, Vaughan Williams in D minor, Pie Jesu (Faure). There is an old belief (Parry), Rev Canon A Luff; 4 Choral E, Responses (Sanders), Wash me throughly (Wesley).

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Remembrance Sunday, The Provost; 10.30 Euch, Darke in A minor, Canon D Galilee; 4 Choral E, And I saw a new heaven (Bainton), Canon M Taylor.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL, College Green: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Euch; 10.50 Remembrance Service; 3.30 Choral E, Responses (Byrd), The Second Service (Leighton), Faire is the Heaven (Harris), Canon A Redfern.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 10.45 Remembrance Service, There is an old belief (Parry), We will remember them (Elgar), Lt Gen Sir A Dennison-Smith; 12 S Euch, Ridout in D, Ecce quomodo moritur justus (Handel); 3.15 E, Responses (Lloyd), Jesus Service (Mathias), Lord thou hast been our refuge (Vaughan Williams); 6.30 Compline, Rev P Brett.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.15 Remembrance Service, So they gave their bodies to the Commonwealth (Aston), Archdeacon D Turnbull; 3 E, Responses/Carlisle Service (Walsh), Lord thou hast been our refuge (Walker); 6.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Briten), Quid retribuam (de Lioncourt), Canon D Weston.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Vice Provost; 10.55 Choral M & Act of Remembrance, Responses (Smith), So they gave their bodies (Aston), Canon D Knight; 6 Choral E, Responses (Smith), Third service (Byrd), In paradisum (Fauré), Canon R Wilson.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Remembrance Service, Greater Love (Ireland), Canon J Newcome; 11.30 Choral Euch, Requiem Mass; 3.30 Choral E, They are at rest (Elgar), Responses (Plainsong), Faux Bourdon (Holmes), When David heard (Tomkins), Amen (Plainsong); 6.30 ES, Responses (Smith), Thou knowest Lord the secrets of our hearts (Purcell), Canon D Kelly.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M, Vaughan Williams in G, The Archdeacon; 11.15 S Euch, Requiem (Fauré), Canon Pierce; 6 E, Noble in B minor, There is an old belief (Parry).

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Britten in C, Responses (Clucas), So they gave their bodies (Aston), The Chancellor; 11 S Euch, Mass of the Holy Trinity (Walsh), The Russian Contakion (Kiev Melody), The Dean; 3.30 E, Sumsion in G, Responses (Clucas), Beati quorum via (Stanford).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, Missa Brevis (Britten), Prayer for peace (Lord), O God of love (Byrd), Greater Love (Ireland), V Rev J Petty; 3 German Luternas; 5 EP; 7 Fauré Requiem.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8, 11.30 HC, Mass in G minor (Vaughan Williams), Rev M Parker; 9 MP; 10.15 Remembrance Service, So they gave their bodies (Aston), Canon D Hodgson; 3.30 E, Blair in B minor, Greater love hath no man (Ireland).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15, 11.45 HC; 10.30 Remembrance Service, And I saw a new heaven (Bainton), Rt Rev P Dawes; 3.45 E, Preces (Moore), Second Service (Leighton), Turn back O man (Holst).

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.45 Remembrance Service, Turn back O man (Holst), The Chancellor; 12 C; 4 Choral E, Hear my prayer of Lord (Purcell), Responses (Rose), Purcell in G minor, Greater Love (Ireland), The Treasurer.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.55 Remembrance Service, Libera me domine (Fauré), Contakion for the departed, Ven G Frost; 3.30 E, Responses (Shephard), The Gloucester Service (Howells), Bring us O Lord God.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 7.45 L; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Darke in F, Call to Remembrance (Farrant); 10.50 Remembrance Service, Agnus Dei (Fauré), Rev Dr J Newton; 3.45 E, Gloucester Service (Howells), Greater love (Ireland), Responses (Rose), Canon N Chamberlain.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP; 10.30 Remembrance Service, Canon Dr J Elford; 3 Choral E, Howells in B minor, Rev G Davies; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & L; 8, 12.15 H Euch: The Dean; 9 Euch, Mr M Soady; 10.50 Remembrance Service, Give rest O Christ (Kiev Melody), Rev J Redvers Harris followed by S Euch, Sanctus & Agnus Dei (Fauré), Remember for good O Father (Jackson); 3.30 Choral E, Sarum Service (Howells), Greater love hath no man (Ireland); 6.30 E, Rev Dr J Baldwin.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC, The Provost; 9.30 S Euch, For Four Voices (Byrd), Open thy gates (J Harrison), Mrs M Wood; 6 Choral E, Hide not thou thy face (Farrant), Responses (Byrd), Trebles Service (Weelkes), Open thy gates (Harrison).

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 11 M, For lo I raise up (Stanford); 6.30 E, St Woolos Service (Shephard), Almighty God the fountain of all wisdom (Farrant).

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Memorial Service; 10 Euch, Stanford in G, Justorum animae (Stanford), The Precentor; 11.30 Civic Service; 3 E, Responses (Leighton), Short Requiem (Walford Davies), Naylor in A, Lord thou hast been our refuge (Vaughan Williams).

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 MP; 9.30 C; 10.30 Text for the day; 10.55 Euch, Canon T Page; 6.30 E, Installation of honorary canons.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 10.55 Choral Euch, Requiem aeternam (Kyrie), Greater love (Ireland), For the fallen (Guest), In Paradisum (Duruflé), Rev Canon D Atkinson; 3 Confirmation, Darke in F, Let all the world (Leighton), Nunc Dimittis (Burgon), Bishop of Croydon.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 9.30 C, The Vicar Choral; 10.55 Remembrance Service, Many waters cannot quench love (Ireland), Rev M Tanner; 3.15 E, Bairstow in D, The Twelve (Walton).

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M, The Treasurer; 10 S Euch, Sumsion in F, Ave Maria (Bruckner), The Dean; 3 Remembrance Service, Rev M Jackson; 6 E, Responses (Sanders), Westminster Service (Howells), Greater Love (Ireland), The Curate.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon G Nairn-Briggs; 9.15 C, The Provost; 10.55 S Euch, Requiem (Duruflé), Canon I Knox; 4 E, Responses (Sumsion), Moeran in D, And I saw a new heaven (Bainton), Canon D Baxter.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Stanford in C, Oculi omnium (Wood), Preb D Goodman; 11.30 M, Britten in E, Benedictus in C (Ireland), Greater love hath no man (Ireland); 3 E, Second Service (Leighton), Agnus Dei (Britten), V Rev R Lewis.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 10.30 Remembrance Service, Justorum animae (Byrd), For the fallen (Guest), Requiem aeternam (Howells); 3 E, Primi toni (Victoria), Behold it is Christ (Hooper), Canon D Gray; 6.30 ES, Canon C Semper.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 12, 5.30, 7 M; 10.30 S Requiem Mass, Messe de Requiem (Duruflé), Choral Dorien (Alain); 10 MP; 3.30 V&B, Magnificat socundi toni (Mundy), Iustorum animae (Lassus), Fugue sur le nom d'Alain (Duruflé).

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Remembrance Service, Benedictus in C (Stanford), Rev N Thomas; 11.30 Euch, Mass for five voices/O sacrum convivium (Byrd); 3.30 E, Blair in B minor, Te lucis ante terminum (Balfour Gardiner), The Dean.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Jackson in G, Responses (Gibbons & Barnard), Rev Canon E Norman; 11.30 M, Te Deum (Holst), Jubilate (Walton); 4 E, Gloucester Service (Howells), Lord thou hast been our refuge (Vaughan Williams), Rev D Newton.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 10.45 Remembrance Service, Greater love (Ireland), Most Rev A Rice Jones; 3.30 EP.

ST CHAD CATHEDRAL, Birmingham: 10.30 Requiem Mass, Requiem (Fauré); 12, 5 M.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10, 6 LM; 11.30 SM, Requiem (Fauré), Fr G Bradley.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 MS & HC, Mozart in C, The Minister; 11.30 Remembrance Service, Lord thou has been our refuge (Vaughan Williams), The Minister; 6 Giles at Six, Napier Chamber Orchestra; 8 ES, Rev C Kenny.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC, Responses (Byrd); 10.30 M, Stanford in C, The Dean; 2.30 E; 3.15 S Euch of Requiem, Requiem Mass (Fauré), Rev C Hill.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM; 10.20 MP; 10.58 HM, Darke in F, Greater love hath no man (Ireland), The Vicar; 6 E&B, Wood in E flat No 2, Blest pair of sirens (Parry), Dr C Rawll.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 C; 10.55 Remembrance Service, Rev Preb R Bewes; 6.30 C, Rev R Tice.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11, Missa pro defunctis (Vittoria), Man that is born of woman/In the midst of life (Purcell).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's Service; 10.55 Remembrance Service, Greater love hath no man (Ireland), Mr T Pocock; 12.15 C; 6 E, Rev P Elvy.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH, Curzon St, W1: 11 Sunday service; 11 Sunday School.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 10.45 Remembrance Service, Rev S Hood; 6.30 Rev S Hood.

FARM STREET, W1: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 ASB HC, Rev S Downham; 11 Informal Service, Rev L Newbiggin; 5, 7.30 Informal, Rev S Millar.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Messe de Requiem (Duruflé), 12.30, 4.30, 7; 3.30 V & B, Ave verum (Dering).

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 Feast of Holy Archangels.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC; 10.50 MS, Rev P Hulme.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11, 6.30.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Rev Dr J Schneider; 7 Choral V, Prelude on Rhosymedre (Vaughan Williams), Rev P Schmiege.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 10.58 M, Justorum animae (Byrd), T D Farrant, The Rector; 6.30 E, Farrant in A minor, Call to remember (Farrant), The Rector.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 10.55 Remembrance Service, (Mozart & Fauré), Canon J Oates; 6.30 Choral E, Responses (Moore), Stanford in C, Valiant for truth (Vaughan Williams), Greater love hath no man (Ireland), Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 10.50 Remembrance Service, Ye now are sorrowful (Brahms), Rev P Bishop.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 10.45 Remembrance Service, Rev J McIndoe; 3 London Scottish Parade Service; 6.30, Rev W Alexander Cairns.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 10.55 SM, Missa pro defunctis 1605 (Victoria).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 10.55 S Euch, Ireland in F, Greater love (Ireland), The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 SM, Eric Griffiths, Reader.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Schubert in F, And I saw a new heaven (Bainton); 6 E, Canticles in G minor/Remember not Lord our offences (Purcell), Rev A Meldrum.

ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 10.45 Remembrance Service, Dorian Toccata (Bach), Rev D Meadway; 6.30 Confirmation, Toccata (Mushel), Bishop of Barking.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC; 10.30 MP, Greater love (Ireland), Rev S Watson; 6.30 E, Responses (Leighton), Sancta et immaculata virginitas (Morales), Rev D Watson.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch, Ireland in C, Greater love hath no man (Ireland), Rev L van der Pump.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.55 Remembrance Service & Euch, Missa Aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina), Agnus Dei (War Requiem Britten), Canon D Gray.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, God all powerful (Stubbings), Greater love hath no man (Ireland), I am the ressurection and the life (Croft), Ven T Stevens; 11.30 Visitors, Kohima Epitaph (Bowyer), Responses (Farial), Greater love hath no man (Ireland), Rev C Herbert; 2.45 Chinese, Rev G Lee; 5 Choral E, Responses (Leighton), Blair in B minor, Laudibus in sanctis (Byrd); 6.30 ES.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington W8: 9.30 Euch, Rev G Gelli; 10.50 Act of Remembrance at War memorial; 11.15 Remembrance Service, Rev D Watson; 6.30 E, The Vicar.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Missa in honorem sancti dominici (Rubbra), Justorum animae (Stanford), Rev J Ovenden; 6 EP.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 10.50 Remembrance Service & HC, Requiem (Fauré), For the fallen (Douglas Guest), The Rector.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 10.55 S Euch, Requiem (Fauré), Greater love (Ireland), Rev M Barney.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Coll Reg (Howells), Agnus Dei (Britten), Fantasia in C minor (Bach), Fr D B Tillyer.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8, 9 LM; 10.55 SM, Missa Solemnis in B flat minor (Bruckner), Grant us thy peace (Mendelssohn), Fr N Cocking.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC, Canon J G M W Murphy; 10.55 M, Responses (Radcliffe), Harwood in A flat, They are at rest (Elgar), Rev L Claxton.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 10.55 Remembrance & M, Stanford in C, My soul there is a country (Parry); 3.30 E, Remember not Lord our offences (Purcell), Parry in D, And I saw a new heaven (Bainton), Responses (Tunnard).

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 11 S Euch, Requiem for six voices (Victoria), Rev S Hobbs.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 10.50 M, Coll Reg (Howells), Greater Love (Ireland), Rev P Millam; 12.30 HC

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11 Silence & MP, Responses (Shephard), Te Deum Laudamus (Leighton), Moeran in E flat, The Master.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 10.55 M, And I saw a new heaven (Bainton), The Chaplain; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 10.50 Remembrance Service & Choral Euch, Setting (Casaloini), Rev C French.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Jesus said, "Beware, be on your guard against greed of every kind, for even when someone has more than enough, his possessions do not give him life.
Luke 12 : 15 (REB)

BIRTHS

ARMSTRONG - On October 31st, to Corinne (née Michiardi) and Simon, a daughter, Victoria Madeleine Dorothy.

BAKER - On November 7th, at The Portland Hospital, to Amanda (née Hodgson) and Darrell, a beautiful daughter, Charlotte Eleanor, a sister for Sasha and Olivia.

BANNISTER - On November 9th, to Julia (née Talbot Rice) and Nick, a son, Archibald William Rennie, a brother for Harry.

DAMJANOVIC - On November 6th, to Anita (née Cassie) and Rob, a daughter, Sasha weighing 7lbs 7 ozs, a sister to Hannah and Max.

DOUMOU - On November 8th, at The Portland Hospital, our beautiful daughter, Nadia Fatma was born to Sharon and Mostafa.

EVERARD - On November 9th 1995 in Germany, to Caroline (née Simpson) and James, a son, Archie Anthony Buist.

FROST - Jayne and John Frost are proud to announce the arrival of Elizabeth Alice on 31st October 1995. A sister for Rebecca.

METCALFE - On October 26th to Lucinda (née Dennis) and Paul, a daughter, Isabel Louise Rofe.

REEKIE - On 1st November 1995, to Simon and Jennifer, twin girls, Asia and Olive.

RICHARDS - To Andrea (née Vila) and Alistair, on 8th November 1995 in California, a son, James, brother for Isabella.

RILEY - Alison and John are delighted to announce the birth of Sophie Troon on October 28th.

ROLT - On November 8th 1995, to Marion (née Bensted) and Mark, a sister for Lucy, Edmund and John.

ROSIER - On 5th November, to Kate (née Johnson) and Nick, a daughter, Beth Alexandra, a sister for Henry, Harriet and Polly.

SWARTZ - On November 8th, at The Portland Hospital, to Cola and Jerry, a beautiful daughter, Brooke Mae, a sister for Lindsay and Cierra.

TINCKNELL - On October 31st, to Helen and Charles, a daughter, Laura Grace, a sister for Harry.

BIRTHS

WAINWRIGHT - On November 9th 1995, to Annie (née Williams) and Mike, twins, a daughter Honour and a son George, born on father and grandfather's birthday.

DEATHS

AUE - Laurita Jane on 9th November 1995, peacefully at home, widow of Fred, much loved by him and by all her step-family. Funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium on Friday 17th November at 1.30 pm. No flowers please: donations, if desired, to Trinity Hospice, Clapham Common North Side, London SW4 0RN.

DODD - Akiko Yonekubo peacefully after an illness courageously borne at Harefield Hospital on 8th November 1995. Mother of Katherine Tamiko. Funeral Service at Breakspear Crematorium, Ruislip, on Tuesday 14th November at 4pm. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu of flowers to Harefield Hospital. All enquiries to Rowland Bros, 44 High Street, Purley, Croydon, CR8 2AA, tel (0181) 660-5547.

DEATHS

FLICK - Samuel Godfrey. Peacefully at home in his 91st year on Friday November 10th 1995. Beloved husband of Madge for 66 years. Loving father of Peter and Tony. Principal for many years of Flick and Son and served as Major (Territorials) 4th Bn The Suffolk Regiment F.E.P.O.W. Private Cremation. Thanksgiving Service to be announced later.

GAMMELL - John Richard (Dick) Gammell M.C. Peacefully in Sherborne on 9th November 1995 in his 98 year. Much loved husband, father, grandfather and friend. Cremation private. Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary Magdalene Church, Thornford, at 3 pm on Monday 20th November. Family flowers only, donations in his memory to The Royal British Legion c/o Eason Funeral Services, Newell Sherborne, Dorset.

DEATHS

HASLAM - Helen Kinnear, widow of the Revd. J.A.G. (Alec) Haslam and much-loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Died peacefully in her sleep in Addenbrooke's Hospital on 9th November, aged 90. Funeral service at St. Bene't's, Cambridge at 3pm on Friday 17th November. No flowers please, donations to Christian Aid.

McINTOSH - On 7th November in The R.N. Hospital, Haslar, suddenly but after a series of illnesses fought with great courage, Elizabeth Rosemary, for 52 years the beloved wife of Vice Admiral Sir Ian McIntosh, mother of Donald, Jamie and Rory and grandmother of Andrew and William. Greatly loved, she will be sadly missed by her many friends. Her funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday 16th November in St. Mary's Church, Alverstoke followed by a private burial. Family flowers only but those who wish may send donations for the Born Free Foundation c/o Churcher & Tribbeck, 3 Stoke Road, Gosport PO12 1LT Hampshire.

PERSONAL

DEATHS

KEMBER - Edgar, passed away peacefully on November 8th 1995. Fondly loved father of Malcolm and Paul. Funeral Service at Holy Trinity Church, Green Lanes, Winchmore Hill N21 on Monday 20th November at 1.45 pm, followed by burial at Old Southgate Cemetery, Waterfall Road, N14 at 2.30pm. Flowers and enquiries to A. Seaward & Sons, 448 Green Lanes, London N13 5XD. Tel: (0181) 886 6101.

MUNRO - On October 26th 1995, at Frimley Park Hospital, Surrey, in his 78th year. Lt. Col. Ian Campbell Studd Munro, The Gordon Highlanders, Ret'd. Much loved by Peggy, Duncan, Shuna and his five grandchildren. John 14 V 18-20. The funeral service was held at Salisbury Crematorium. Donations to S.S.A.F.A., 10 Queen Elizabeth Street, London, SE1 2LP.

NASH - David Hartopp Nash MBE passed peacefully away in Jersey on Friday, 3rd November, 1995, aged 82, loving and devoted husband of Irene, father of John, father-in-law of Arlene and Grampa of Daniel. The funeral and cremation took place on Friday, 10th November, 1995. Donations in lieu may be sent to Helen House, 37 Leopold Street, Oxford OX4 1QT.

RAMSAY - William Reid, aged 83 died peacefully in his sleep on 9th November. Devoted husband of Jean and loving father of Clive, Louise and Pauline. Beloved grandfather of Phoebe. Funeral Service at Church of Ascension, Bitterne Park, Southampton on Wednesday 15th November at 2.30 pm. Private interment on 16th November in Norfolk.

SHAW - Gavin Walter Shaw, T.D., on Sunday November 5th peacefully in his sleep, aged 59. Most deeply loved husband of Susan and loving father of Tania and Julian. Funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium on Wednesday November 15th at 3.45 pm. Donations, if desired, to Twining Enterprise, Twickenham c/o T.H. Sanders & Sons, Barnes, tel: (0181) 876-6255.

SKELLORN - On 9th November 1995, at home, Peter aged 64 years. Funeral Service at St Peter's Church, Sible Hedingham, Essex on Friday 17th November at 2pm.

STANLEY-SMITH - On 10th November 1995, Stanley of Grosvenor Square, London W1, peacefully. Beloved husband of Joan and dear father of Antony and Mark, grandfather of Edward, Sophy and Christopher. Family funeral at Christchurch, Henton nr Wells, on wednesday 15th November at 2.30pm.

TEMS - James Sydney, peacefully on 6th November 1995, in Cheltenham Hospital, aged 79. Beloved husband of Sheila, much loved father of Andrew, Hazel, Duncan, Alan and Michael and grandfather of Christopher, Emma, Ruth and Simon. Funeral Service at Cheltenham Crematorium Chapel 11 am on Tuesday November 14th.

DEATHS

WEBB - (née Stone) Mary Denise, widow of Tom, aged 88 years, peacefully on Wednesday 8th November 1995. Dearly loved mother of Michael, Angela and Diana and adored grandmother of Guy, Mark, Adam, Suzanne and Benedikte. Funeral at 3 pm on Friday November 17th at St. Mary's Church, Bayford, Hertfordshire.

WELDON - Ernest, died suddenly on November 9th. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends. The funeral will take place on Wednesday 15th November at 10.30 am at the Liberal Jewish Cemetery, The Lodge Pound Lane, London NW10

MEMORIAL SERVICES

BERGIN - Hamish O.C. A Memorial Service will be held in Clifton College Chapel at 11.30 am on Saturday December 2nd 1995. All welcome especially young O.C's.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

FORRESTER - John, Bookseller who died 12th November 1992. R.I.P. S.

GEPP - Damaris Editha Gepp, B.A., on November 12th 1988. Every day I remember. Love Ivor.

REEVES - Betty Lilian Florence. Remembered whilst I live.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

HINGLEY - The Rev. Bernadette (née Bryan). A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at All Saints Church, Brompton, Nr Scarborough, Yorks on Friday, December 1st at 2.00 pm.

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NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased persons whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

PARKER, NORMAN, 3 Neville Avenue, Orford, Warrington, Cheshire. Died on 20th March 1995. Particulars to Wilkin Marsden Solicitors, 51 Wilson Patten Street, Warrington, Cheshire before 11th January 1996.

TURNER Agnes (otherwise known as Barbara A. Turner) of 35 Conway Crescent, Perivale, Ealing, London died on 3rd July, 1995. Particulars to Keith Hall Javier & Co. Solicitors, 422 Greenford Road, Greenford, Middx, UB6 9AG before 12th January, 1996.

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OBITUARIES

JOHN CAHILL

John C. Cahill, chairman of TWA, *former chief executive* of BTR and former chairman of British Aerospace, died from a brain tumour on November 4 aged 65. He was born on January 8, 1930.

JOHN CAHILL was an outstanding hands-on industrial manager, one of a team of four who built the BTR group from an old rubber company with dim prospects into an international manufacturing conglomerate that became one of Britain's top ten companies.

A tall, rangy figure with a cheerful smile and a manner straightforward to a fault, Cahill made his happiest contributions leading factories to turn out quality products efficiently and at low cost and in building up BTR's vast North American operations from scratch. In such professional business roles he was a master. He was less at ease, but still delivered financial success, when he came into the public eye first as chief executive of BTR from 1987 to 1991 and then as the tough outsider drafted in to sort out British Aerospace, after *over-ambitious* expansion had brought it to its knees.

Cahill was born in Middlesex into a middle-class business family in *comfortable but variable circumstances.* He nonetheless developed a steely, work-driven and sometimes austere character as a businessman. He attributed this to his wretched and lonely days at a boarding school to which he was dispatched when he was nine.

This engendered such a passion for punctuality that Cahill could turn up half an hour early for meetings, bringing business papers to read the while. He was famously and demandingly honest and convinced that life was hard. Direct and shy of small talk, though voluble in congenial company, *he much preferred a sandwich* at his desk to the business lunch. His business life, where he preferred a male atmosphere, was kept quite separate and in contrast to his treasured family life with Vanna, his Italian wife of nearly 40 years, and their three daughters.

After leaving St Paul's School, Hammersmith, at 17 and doing his National Service, Cahill drifted into a City stockbroker's office, but found himself redundant at 24 and won a job as a conveyor belt salesman at the future BTR in 1955, starting a 35-year career with the company. Within a few years, the impressive 6ft 4in youngster was dispatched to set up a subsidiary company in Canada.

Cahill emerged in the late 1960s as one of four complementary young men, along with Norman Ireland, now *chairman of BTR, and the late Don* Tapley, who revolutionised the company under Sir Owen Green, the group's leader and chief inspirer. It then had sales of £4 million and made a loss. By the time Cahill left, sales were £6.7 billion and profits more than *£900 million.*

Cahill was ideally suited to the parsimonious no-frills style that Green developed at the group's modest Pimlico headquarters. He was the ever-travelling, hard-working exponent on the ground of the distinctive management style the four developed. This involved agreeing tough but realistic financial targets in conjunction with managers of separate subsidiary companies. Local managers were then left to get on with the job, though help was available if needed and performance was monitored centrally via brief monthly reports of key management statistics. Returns on sales came before sales growth, community involvement or lavish overheads.

This system, which fostered a strong team spirit, is now widely used throughout British business, not always *so appropriately or with such* dedication. It enabled BTR to build up a disparate empire through ever larger acquisitions, such as Thomas Tilling and Dunlop, spanning unconnected industries on four continents, linked only by being mainly in manufacturing or process sectors and by the distinctive BTR management pack.

In 1978, when Cahill had been deputy managing director to Green for three years, he was sent on a solo mission to develop from one acquisition a comparable business in the United States. After a cautious start, he built up a new empire over a period of nine years, during which he warmed to the hard, direct American approach to business and grew to prefer living there. By last year, BTR's operations in the Americas made a gratifying £527 million operating profit, more than a third of the group total.

Returning to become chief executive at the beginning of 1987, when Green moved up to become non-executive chairman, Cahill found himself in the middle of a takeover bid not of his making for Pilkington, the glass group *that had turned its research on float* glass into a world-beater. The bid battle proved a setback for BTR and for Cahill's tenure at the top. Pilkington escaped, thanks to profits recovering faster than BTR expected, and a campaign that damagingly painted BTR as unimaginative and too dependent on accounting and takeovers for growth. Cahill proved the latter wrong — profits nearly doubled in his four years at the top. But he never managed a major acquisition, partly because BTR was anxious not to pay too dearly. His attempt to buy Norton, an American abrasives multinational, failed after his tactics proved too abrasive. He left a message announcing the bid on the Norton boss's home answering machine at 6am and Norton fled into the arms of a more sophisticated French group.

After Cahill left BTR at its official retirement age of 60, strictly enforced, he planned to live at his homes in *America. He was soon recalled to fill a* vacuum at British Aerospace, whose chairman and finance director had left after it expanded rapidly in several directions at once, became over-stretched, lost City confidence and plunged into loss.

Cahill took over as executive chairman from a caretaker director who had already pledged to the City that BAe would retrench back to aircraft and defence equipment rather than seek more funds. Admiring BTR managers warned their counterparts at BAe that they were in for a culture shock and Cahill did not *disappoint* them. He invested his own cash in the business and set about hacking out costs and indulgent management habits with relish.

In his brief time with this highly political business, Cahill sold Rover to BMW amid much public indignation, since *stilled.* But his painstaking personal efforts to sell BAe's regional passenger jet business failed, perhaps because Cahill's brisk, bluff approach was unsuited to the intricacies of business deals in the Far East.

Cahill left suddenly after two years of a five-year contract. This was as much because he wanted to spend time with his family, who were still living in America, as because of the political conflicts he encountered within the board of BAe. Since his departure, BAe's profits have recovered strongly, thanks largely to the improved manufacturing methods and monitoring he set in train.

Early this year Cahill had taken on another business challenge with his usual enthusiasm, becoming chairman of the long-troubled airline group TWA. He is survived by his wife and *three daughters.*

KEN SARO-WIWA

Ken Saro-Wiwa, novelist and playwright, was executed yesterday, aged 54. He was born on October 10, 1941.

AN IMPROBABLE warrior for a nation whose bloodthirsty history has bred legions of soldiers, Ken Saro-Wiwa rose to fame first as the author of humorous works. Yet political interests lay always just under his skin. The sheer farcical muddle of a country led by a succession of capricious dictators lent itself to his satirist's pen. His television series *Bari and Co* portrayed the life of a raffish conman whose hapless business schemes echoed only too evidently the vices of his nation — "the greed for money *at every level,*" *as Saro-Wiwa* was to put it.

His most highly regarded work *Sozaboy: A Novel in Rotten English*, though penned in a humorous counterpoint of pidgin and idiomatic English painted a wryly ironic portrait of the endemic corruption of the military. The embattled dictatorship of Babangida recognised its warped features in the satiric mirror which Saro-Wiwa held up and began to feel a threat.

This *threat* became *more* direct when Saro-Wiwa used his pen no longer to amuse but to bring the plight of Nigeria's 300,000 Ogoni people to the world's attention. His campaign opened up the already aching scars of tribalistic and governmental tensions as he attempted to prevent the genocide of his people. The area had been despoiled by the explorations of the multi-national Shell which in the late 1950s began drilling for oil.

For a Government whose national revenue is almost entirely derived from oil, his campaign represented a direct threat. When in October 1990 the Ogoni people attacked Shell production staff at Umuachem, the company called in the feared "mobile police" who quenched the uprising with armoured cars and sophisticated weaponry.

Babangida's retaliation was far crueller than that of the satirist's pen.

Kenule Beeson Saro-Wiwa was born at Bori, in Rivers State a lush, flood-prone region on the Southern Coast of *Nigeria irrigated by the* interlacing tributaries of the River Niger. As a child he recalled playing football on stinking oil-encrusted fields in a despoiled land where crops *shrivelled in the polluted soil* and villagers were kept awake at night by the hissing of lurid refinery flares.

His father, though an Anglican, interpreted Christianity according to the precepts of local culture and he had three wives. Saro-Wiwa grew up in an environment in which family and tribal links were strongly forged.

He was educated first at Government College, Umuahia, and later at the University of Ibadan from where he went on to become from 1962 to 1966 a secondary school teacher at his former school. He then became a graduate assistant at the University of Negerioa, Nsukka and later an assistant lecturer at the University of Lagos.

However his political interests emerged at an early age. He was appointed administrator for Bonny, Rivers State during the Biafran Civil War. He was also affiliated variously with the Ministry of Works, Land and Transport, 1968-69, Ministry of Education, 1969-71, and Ministry of Information and Home Affairs 1971-73. His friends joked about the tycoonish airs he adopted, laughing at his pipe and his preference for fine whiskies.

However, Saro-Wiwa proved himself able to abandon the superficial accoutrements of power when he took up the spokesmanship of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People. He used his fame as a writer and his connections with other reputed authors such as his fellow Nigerian the Nobel Prize Winning Wole Soyinka and the English novelist William Boyd *to gain attention for ideas* which gained gathering power as they trickled down from an intellectual elite to the masses.

In 1993, after Babangida annulled the results of a presidential election, reneging on his promise of a return to civilian rule, chaos ensued and Saro Wiwa was imprisoned for a month. But his prison writings were smuggled back to Britain by *The Times* in 1993 and an interna*tional readership found itself appalled* by his horrific evocations of prison life: "the septic tank, the stinking bathroom, the cell of the damned of the earth, who shriek and chant by turns next door". Saro-Wiwa had moved far away from his early days when he had penned a *satirically* amusing column for a Lagos newspaper on prison life. Amnesty campaigned for, and won, his release.

Despite international outcry unprovoked attacks on Ogoni villages escalated and in May this year four Ogoni men were lynched on suspicion of collaborating with military authorities. Tens more were subsequently killed and hundreds arrested. Saro-Wiwa was imprisoned and accused of inciting violence, charges he always denied.

He leaves his wife Hauwa and children.

PETER CASSON

Peter Casson, hypnotist, died on October 24 aged 73. He was born on December 13, 1921.

HYPNOTISM enjoyed a new vogue in the immediate post-war years as a result of the literally mesmerising stage shows of Peter Casson. Casson's popularity was such that an intrigued BBC considered televising one of his shows, and in 1946 invited him to Alexandra Palace to take part in a controlled experiment with volunteers. Casson not only managed to put the volunteers to sleep with extraordinary ease, but also accidentally hypnotised one person who was watching from a nearby room on closed-circuit television.

The BBC was horrified at the possible repercussions should it go ahead with the broadcast as planned, and hastily dissociated itself from Casson: "Because of the success of this experiment and the consequent danger of hypnotising viewers who might not have anyone at hand to wake them, it has been decided that a hypnotic television broadcast would not be advisable."

Casson did not match up to the Svengali image of the hypnotist in real life. Admittedly, he had a certain physical presence on stage, being strapping and dark. But in the flesh, he came across as a plain-spoken Yorkshireman, with a boyish enthusiasm for his subject. He spent much of his time, when he was not performing, trying to verify the benefits of hypnosis on certain medical and psychological conditions.

Peter Reginald Casson was born in Bridlington, Yorkshire, the son of a carpenter.

He was introduced to hypnosis at St George's School, and studied the subject afterwards at night classes at Hull University. During the war Casson spent four years with the Royal Marines, much of it in the Middle East. He had a good deal of time on his hands, and many willing volunteers on whom to practise. Sometimes he would try light-hearted experiments such as making his subjects rise at 5am and bang loudly on the sergeant-major's door. On other occasions, he attempted fairly complicated experiments, as when he hypnotised a Greek with the help of two interpreters, one translating from English to French, the other from French to English.

After the war he worked up a stage show and toured army bases with Ensa. Back in Britain in the days when variety still thrived, he made a name for himself on the Moss Empires circuit. He followed this with tours to America, the Seychelles and Iceland.

Casson advocated a scrupulous approach to the handling of volunteers during a demonstration of hypnosis. For instance, he might ask a stage full of entranced subjects to accompany a record with imaginary musical instruments, or to enact an elaborate cricket match with imaginary ball, bat and stumps. But with the decline of variety in the late 1950s and the rising popularity of television, many of his fellow stage hypnotists decided to adopt a more sensationalist stance in order to draw the crowds, and asked their volunteers to strip or to perform other degrading acts. Casson was horrified by the development, and in 1979 formed the Federation of Ethical Stage Hypnotists with 25 colleagues, becoming its first chairman.

He had spent some of the intervening years developing useful medical applications for hypnosis. He worked in hospitals on neurological disorders, and examined hypnosis as a natural anaesthetic for women in childbirth. He spent about one week in three seeing patients at his clinic in Dorset Square, and he treated shell-shocked patients after the war. He also wrote newspaper articles on mild psychological problems such as blushing or stuttering.

*Casson owned two night*clubs, the Baba in Barnsley and the Kiki in Doncaster, and was chairman of the Cabaret Clubs Federation. He was also an amateur archaeologist, specialising in the Roman period in Britain.

His marriage to Magda Bain, at one time his assistant on stage, ended in divorce. They had one daughter, who survives him.

MARY HENRY

Mary Henry, CBE, registrar of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, 1947-73, died on October 31 aged 83. She was born on April 10, 1912.

FOR 30 years a senior officer of the General Nursing Council (GNC) for England and Wales, Mary Henry was a nurse who strove to see that high standards of nursing were kept through registration bodies, independent of governments, in the emerging countries of the British Commonwealth. She looked to the welfare of nurses who were subject to the disciplinary processes of her profession, and for many years she personally signed every nurse's registration certificate. Yet she also visited America in the 1960s to find how computers could introduce modern record-keeping at the GNC.

Born into a medical family, Mary Gwendolen Nicol Henry trained as a nurse at University College Hospital, London, from 1937 to 1940. She felt she had joined the right profession but considered that bedside nursing was not for her. She, therefore, joined the staff of the GNC as second assistant registrar in 1943, was appointed first assistant registrar in 1944, and became registrar in 1947. She only *retired in* 1973, *when* the council gave a reception for her in the Great Hall of St Bartholomew's Hospital.

She had been at the helm during an era which had seen six Nurses Acts, and when the numbers of nurses on the register and roll had increased from 120,000 to 600,000. And although not an educationist, she established an education department at the council.

At the GNC she was the Sir Humphrey-type senior civil servant from *Yes, Minister* — self-effacing but with a hand firmly on the levers of power, wise but with a quiet humour, punctilious in attention to legal details and demanding of high standards. Because the rules said that nurses must be notified "forthwith" of the result of disciplinary decisions, even if the disciplinary committee sat until 6pm she would send the letters out that night. *In those days she signed* every letter herself.

She lived not only for but on the job — in a flat at the back of the GNC offices in Portland Place, with her cat. It was the age when only staff of the rank of higher clerical officer or above were allowed to use the main staircase of the GNC. But any member of staff who had a personal problem knew they could always go to her.

Mary Henry's sympathetic nature made her acutely aware of the situation of errant nurses caught up in the council's disciplinary procedure. This was why she was very positive about the setting up of the Nurses Welfare Service in 1972, on the initiative of Lady (Lisa) Sainsbury, once she had reconciled for herself the conflict of roles of the council in protecting the public and helping nurses who had failed to live up to professional standards. She was delighted when her new deputy, Reg Pine, whom she had sent off to read himself into the job, pointed out that *there was provision in the Act* for the council to do the latter.

She felt strongly that a profession's regulatory body should be independent of government, and her battles on this extended beyond those with the Government in Britain. When Britain's former colonies became independent after the war, Mary Henry worked hard to see that their nurses would be able to nurse to the same high standards as in Britain, with the protection *of their own nursing councils.* She travelled extensively in Africa on this mission, which, as it was on behalf of a largely female profession, was complicated by local attitudes to women.

Mary Henry attended congresses of the International Council of Nurses, and in retirement she undertook a number of short-term World Health Organisation consultancies. She was also chairman of the 1930 Fund for District Nurses. *She was* appointed CBE in 1970.

She was a very private person. Few knew that she loved poetry. She never married but a visit to a children's home resulted in her taking on a single parent role while working at her demanding job. Bringing up a boy who had been in care brought her later the joy of grandchildren. He survives her.

Armed Forces honours and awards

Details of awards for gallant and distinguished service in the former Republic of Yugoslavia, Northern Ireland and miscellaneous non-operational awards are published today:

Northern Ireland

CBE

Gp Capt R E Wedge, RAF.

OBE

Lt Col J R Cook, Devonshire and Dorset Regt; Lt Col D N J Flynn, King's Own Royal Border Regt; Lt Col G F Hislop, Royal Irish Regt; Rev M K Masterson, Royal Army Chaplains' Dept; Lt Col A R Pillar, RM; Cdr R Thoburn, RN; Rev D E Wilkes, Royal Army Chaplains' Dept.

MBE

Major G S Ackers, Int Corps; Capt S T Chicken, RM; WO Class 2 P Cook, RM; Major J A Esler, Royal Irish Regt; Major P J L Farrelly, Scots Gds; Major M Gray, RAMC; Capt T A S Hill, KOSB; WO Class 2 M J Keating, Royal Green Jkts; Major G A Knought, Int Corps; *Capt* S Livingstone, RM; Major A H C Macmillan-Scott, KOSB; Major W R Munday, Princess of Wales's Royal Regt; Colour Sgt C D Norman, Para Regt; Major P D Phillips, REME; Major B W O Russell, Argyll and Sutherland Hldrs; Major A J S Storrie, Devonshire and Dorset Regt; Major M W E Wade, King's Royal Hussars; Major M C Wickham, Royal Logistic Cps; Lt J C Williams, Int Corps.

QGM

Capt C J Henson, Royal Logistic Cps; Cpl C R Mills, Para Regt; Sgt A E Parsonage, Gn Howards; Colour Sgt L Smith, Queen's Lancashire Regt; WO Class 2 R W Wells, REME.

MID

Sgt M G Smith, King's Royal Hussars.

QCB

Capt H R S Clarke, Scots Gds; Pte D A Cornell, King's Own Border Regt; Capt A J W Davidson, King's Own Royal Border Regt; Sgt P Dreghorn, Argyll and Sutherland Hldrs; Sgt M C Hawkes, Royal Regt of Artillery; Cpl M Keenan, Argyll and Sutherland Hldrs; Sgt M A Langley, RE; Sgt D McMillan, Argyll and Sutherland Hldrs; Cpl C J Overton, Royal Logistic Cps; Colour Sgt A W Rea, Royal Irish Regt; L/Cpl R Redhead, King's Own Royal Border Regt; Pte A J Reynolds, Royal Logistic Cps; Sgt S J Sanderson, RM; Cpl D A J Thom, Argyll and Sutherland Hldrs; WO Class 2 P Thomson, Scots Gds; WO Class 2 R A Wharton, Royal Logistic Cps.

QCVS

Capt M J Abbott, Princess of Wales's Royal Regt; Cpl A M Adams, RM; Major C E I Beattie, Royal Gn Jkts; Major S A Bird, King's Own Royal Border Regt; Major C C S Booth, Lt Infy; Lieut Cdr J M Burnip, RN; Maj G J Cary, Royal Cps of Signals; Capt E J R Chamberlain, Lt Infy; Maj J H De Haldevang, Scots Gds; Sgt H L Elliott, Adjt Gen's Cps (PRO); Col T M Fitzalan Howard, late Scots Gds; Capt A J Gale, Royal Logistic Cps; Maj T J Gammons, Royal Regt of Fusiliers; WO Class 1 A F Gibb, Royal Logistic Cps; Flight Lieut G R Gibbons, RAF; Lieut Col D C N Giles, Adjt Gen's Cps (PRO); Capt A H F Gordon, Army Air Cps; Cpl T E J Graham, Royal Irish Regt; Maj N Grant Thorold, King's Royal Hussars; Maj M T Griffiths, King's Own Royal Border Regt; Maj M I Hanlon, Royal Irish Regt; Capt D H Jackson, Royal Irish Regt; Lieut P G Jackson, Scots Gds; Capt H R D J Joynson, King's Royal Hussars; Lieut A J Livingstone, RM; Colour Sgt N C Macgregor, KOSB; Lieut G M McCrindle, Royal Cps of Signals; Major M J McFrederick, Royal Irish Regt; Colour Sgt A McKenzie, Argyll and Sutherland Hldrs; Pte K A McMillan, Para Regt; Lieut Col A K M Miller, Argyll and Sutherland Hldrs; Capt K A Miller, Int Cps; Major A F Morrow, Royal Irish Regt; Major D M Nield, Royal Welch Fusiliers; Cpl S D Orchard, Para Regt; Capt M B O'Reilly, Royal Irish Regt; Colour Sgt R J Palmer, Royal Irish Regt; Sgt R Parkhill, Royal Irish Regt; Major D Parsonage, King's Own Royal Border Regt; Flight Lieut M Powell, RAF; Major B S Price, Royal Logistic Cps; Capt J A Scott, Argyll and Sutherland Hldrs; Colour Sgt J P A Seward, RM; Cpl P J Shephard, Adjt Gen's Cps (PRO); Lieut Col A R D Shirreff, King's Royal Hussars; Major I W Smith, Para Regt; Major J R M Stanton, KOSB; Pte L Thompson, Royal Irish Regt; Capt M R Tierney, KOSB; Col M D Webb, *late Army Air Cps; Lieut* Col T F L Weeks, Lt Infy; Sgt K J White, Int Cps; Major M W Wischhusen, Royal Regt of Fusiliers; Sgt A R Worrall, Adjt Gen's Cps (PRO).

Former Republic of Yugoslavia

OBE

Lieut Col P E O'R-B Davidson-Houston, Royal Gloucs, Berks and Wilts Regt; Lieut Col J S M Edwardes, Royal Highland Fusrs.

MBE

Capt A J Coltart, RE; Lieut Cdr P S Doyne-Ditmas, RN; Maj F D F Drury, Royal Gloucs, Berks and Wilts Regt; WO Class 2 P P Lewis, Life Gds; Sgt J M Mackie, REME; Major R J C Maxwell, Royal Logistic Cps; WO Class 2 C Sumner, Royal Gloucs, Berks and *Wilts Regt; Capt R M Wilson, RE.*

AFC

Lieut Cdr J C Snowball, RN.

MID

Cpl S Bell, Royal Highland Fusiliers; L/Cpl C R Edwards, Royal Gloucs, Berks and Wilts Regt; Cpl D D Lewis, Royal Gloucs, Berks and Wilts Regt; Cpl M J Linker, Royal Gloucs, Berks and Wilts Regt; Cpl W J McGavin, REME; Flight Lieut J P White, RAF.

QCB

Maj S G Donaldson, Royal Regt of Artillery; L/Cpl J Hopkins, Royal Logistic Cps.

QCVS

Capt J D Bagshaw, Coldstm Gds; Major D A J Brown, Royal Gloucs, Berks and Wilts Regt; Capt J C Collier, Royal Gloucs, Berks and Wilts Regt; CPO Air Engineering Artificer (L) J Coulson, RN; Capt J C Dixon, Adjt Gen's Cps (SPS); L/Cpl J E Flux, REME; Brigadier R D S Gordon, late 17th/21st Lancers; Colour Sgt S A Hanson, Royal Gloucs, Berks and Wilts *Regt; Cpl D C Jones, RE; Lieut Col* M H Lewington, Royal Logistic Cps; Lieut Col I R Liles, Royal Regt of Fusiliers; WO Class 2 D A McGinnis, RE; Staff Sgt V A Pridden, Royal Logistic Cps; Cpl P A Rendell, RE; Capt R G Robertson, Royal Highld Fusrs; Capt N J P Sharples, REME; CPO Air Engineering Artificer (L) W P Young, RN.

Rwanda

QCB

Lieut Col M Cuthbert-Brown, Adjt Gen's Cps (PRO).

Incidental non-operational gallantry awards

QGM

Capt M Lobb, RE.

AFC

Flt Lieut A J Stacey, RAF.

QCBA

Flt Sgt S D Hart, RAF; Master Aircrew W Reid, RAF.

ON THIS DAY

November 11, 1925

This profit-sharing scheme clearly had the backing of Lord Inchcape. A highly successful shipowner and man of affairs, he believed that "every citizen should have the opportunity for self-help and self-development".

P. AND O. THRIFT SCHEME.

OFFER TO EMPLOYEES.

We are able to announce that the P. and O. Company has now instituted a "profit-sharing scheme" for its employees, in which the employees of its associate company, the British India Steam Navigation Company, *will also be eligible to participate. It is* understood that the matter has for some time past engaged the attention of Lord Inchcape, the chairman of the companies.

At their meeting yesterday the board unanimously approved of the issue of a circular in the following terms:-

With a view to giving them an interest in the undertakings, the board of the P. and O. *Company is prepared to receive deposits from all* employees of the P. and O. and British India Companies, bearing interest at 5 per cent. per annum, together with an additional 2 per cent. when the dividend paid by the P. and O. Company on its Deferred stock is 5 per cent. per annum, or over; or 2½ per cent. when the dividend is 10 per cent, or over.

The deposits should be made in sums of £10 or *multiples thereof. Interest and additional 2 per* cent. or 2½ per cent. will run from the date of receipt of the deposits.

The deposit receipts will not be negotiable, but will be repayable by the company on any January 1 on six months' notice in writing being either given by the company or received from depositors. *Warrants for the interest and additional 2* per cent. or 2½ per cent., as the case may be, will be sent to depositors yearly on December 31.

The first payment of interest and the "additional," if any, will be made December 31, 1926, and annually thereafter. The first "additional" will be dependent on the dividend for the company's year ending September 30, 1926, and so on yearly thereafter.

The board reserve to themselves full liberty to terminate the receipt of deposits at any time and to limit the amount deposited by any individual depositor.

It thus becomes possible for an employee in *any department, afloat or ashore, to deposit* with the company a minimum of £10 with interest at 5 per cent. per annum, and as the dividend on the company's Deferred stock has for very many years past been maintained at or above 10 per cent., the depositors would appear to have a reasonable prospect of receiving a return of 7½ per cent. on the total amount of their deposits—small or large. It is understood that the scheme is considered by its sponsors to be "convenient for all parties and preferable to the creation of a special denomination of employees' shares."

The plan, it will be seen, will encourage thrift and give the depositors a direct interest in the profits of the company. Not only is the basic rate of 5 per cent. a satisfactory one, but any additional interest will be entirely dependent on the prosperity of the company as indicated by the rate of dividend declared on the Deferred stock.

It will be interesting to learn a year hence to what extent the staff, afloat or ashore, have availed themselves of the offer. The hope is known to be expressed that "with its peculiar incentive to personal saving and the interest which it should induce in the success of the company's operations, it should prove as successful as any plan yet evolved with a similar object."

THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11 1995

NEWS

Nigeria executions condemned

■ Nigeria's place in the Commonwealth was in jeopardy last night after the execution of the writer Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other regional activists. Saro-Wiwa had been nominated for the 1996 Nobel Prize for Literature, and the move drew universal condemnation from governments, human rights campaigners and literary figures .... **Pages 1, 11, 12, 21, 23**

Britain remembers the Armistice

■ Britain may all but come to a halt at 11am this morning as the nation observes the two minutes' silence on Armistice Day. Stores, supermarkets, corner shopkeepers and publicans have pledged their support for a Royal British Legion campaign to commemmorate the end of The Great War .... **Pages 1, 10, 20**

Irish bomb seized

Irish police seized a van containing a 1,000lb bomb which republican dissidents were planning to explode in Ulster to destabilise the peace process .... **Page 2**

Briton to hang

John Scripps, 35, a Briton, was sentenced to hang by a Singapore judge for killing a South African tourist .... **Page 3**

Greenpeace veto

BBC journalists may be banned from travelling on Greenpeace ships to cover the group's direct action campaigns .... **Page 4**

Unlawful killing

Five police officers face prosecution after an inquest found that a man injured during arrest was unlawfully killed .... **Page 5**

Lottery fever

Camelot, the National Lottery organiser, is about to celebrate its first anniversary with weekly sales of tickets at £65 million ..... **Page 7**

Class warfare

The main political parties redrew battle lines on the key educational issue of class sizes .... **Page 9**

Major talks tough

John Major disowned a Commonwealth statement on French nuclear tests as he unveiled a tough new approach to international negotiations .... **Page 12**

Israel swings left

An opinion poll in Israel shows a huge swing away from the right wing to the acting Labour Prime Minister, Shimon Peres .. **Page 14**

Lubbers withdraws

The search for a Nato chief turned into a transatlantic clash when Ruud Lubbers stood down after being rejected by the United States .... **Pages 15, 21**

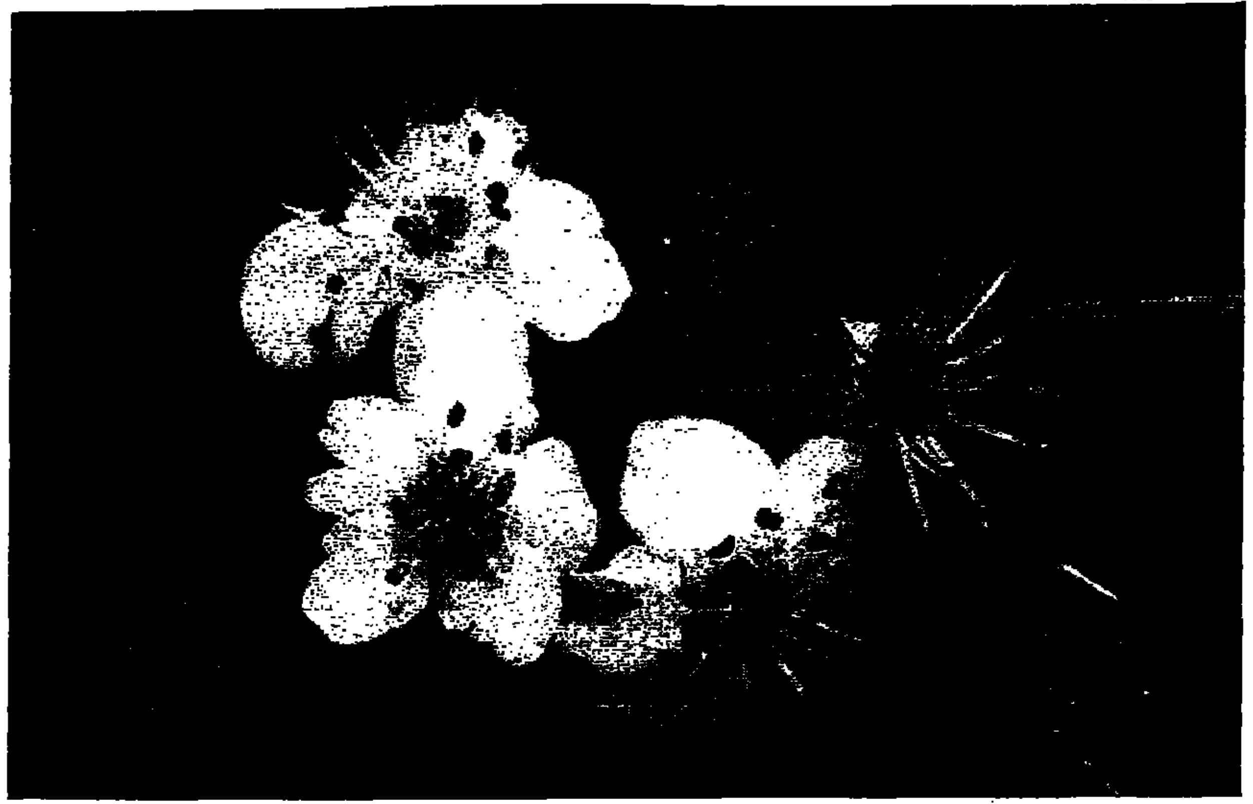
The Blair of Naples

The Mayor of Naples, Antonio Bassolino, is emerging as the Tony Blair of Italy .... **Page 16**

Frog turns into prince of spinners

■ England's cricketers were embarrassed by Paul Adams, a diminutive 18-year-old practising the ancient and neglected art of left-arm wrist-spin with an action that has been described as resembling a frog in a blender .... **Pages 1, 20, 48**

PAUL YEOMANS



Spring has come early to a pear tree in the garden of Miranda McKay-James, near Dorchester

OPINION

Abacha's crime: Nigeria's is a national drama of which Mr Saro-Wiwa, from prison, lamented: "I feel sad that I cannot contribute to the end." Britain must help to write the next chapter .... **Page 21**

Magical mystery tour: Younger listeners, many born after the group dissolved its parnership, are in The Beatles' thrall .... **Page 21**

THE PAPERS

Wall Street figures have assured the House Republicans that the consequences of a national debt default would be slight, but much of the debt is not held in Wall Street but in places abroad where the understanding of American political folkways is meagre — *The Washington Post*

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: I used to attend the Lord Mayor's Show as a child. Whom was I cheering? I knew the Queen ruled the world, but the Lord Mayor was merely a man who sat in a coach .... **Page 20**

Magnus Linklater: *Revisiting old memories can be profoundly emotional, as Enoch Powell reveals* .... **Page 20**

OBITUARIES

John Cahill, former chief executive of BTR and chairman of British Aerospace; **Ken Saro-Wiwa**, novelist and playwright; **Peter Casson**, hypnotist .... **Page 23**

LETTERS

Late payment of debts; mediation in divorce; Preacher of the Year award .... **Page 21**

BUSINESS

British Gas: Customers may have to share some of the £1 billion losses British Gas could suffer from unprofitable contracts with North Sea producers .... **Page 25**

Ports: Felixstowe has won the first round in a legal battle to restrain £100,000 of lentils owned by a small London importer .... **Page 25**

Rover: A Rover executive who led the setting up of a modern car industry in Bulgaria died in a road accident in Serbia .... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 18.2 points yesterday to close at 3523.4. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 84.1 to 83.8 after falling from $1.5787 to $1.5755 and from DM2.2343 to DM2.2246 .... **Page 28**

SPORT

Motor racing: Mika Hakkinen's serious injuries in a crash in practice for the Australian Grand Prix have provoked renewed concerns about safety in Formula One racing .... **Page 48**

Football: Canvey Island, of the Icis League second division, prepare for their biggest day in 70 years tomorrow, against Brighton in the FA Cup first round .... **Page 47**

Triathlon: Britain's Simon Lessing is the runaway favourite to win the world championship in Cancun, Mexico .... **Page 45**

Football: Why David Platt decided to give up the good life in Italy to pursue further fulfilment with Arsenal and England .... **Page 46**

SATURDAY TIMES

MAGAZINE

Yesterday and today: From the Beatles to Britpop and back .... **Pages 8-49**

Winter wines: Jane MacQuitty picks her favourite bottles for under a fiver .... **Page 57**

Food: Jonathan Meades eats fish and chips .... **Page 67**

WEEKEND

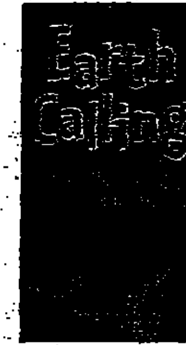
Passion and Powell: Michael Cockerell on Enoch Powell, odd man out .... **Pages 1, 3**

Travel: Where to singalong with dolphins and whales; Thai cooking .... **Pages 20, 23**

Books: Penguin's portable opera guide; a new Pratchet and a *Gorky Park* for the 1990s .... **Page 14**

10 15

The weekly magazine for young Times readers



Future world: how to survive the Children's Environment Conference .... **Page 6**

Win: a trip to see Keanu Reeves in *A Walk in the Clouds* .... **Page 3**

Recommended: best music, books and videos ..... **Page 10**

VISION

The 7-day TV and radio guide

Cover story: the writer and star of *Blackadder*, Ben Elton and Rowan Atkinson, team up again in *The Thin Blue Line*. Monday, BBC1, 8.30pm.

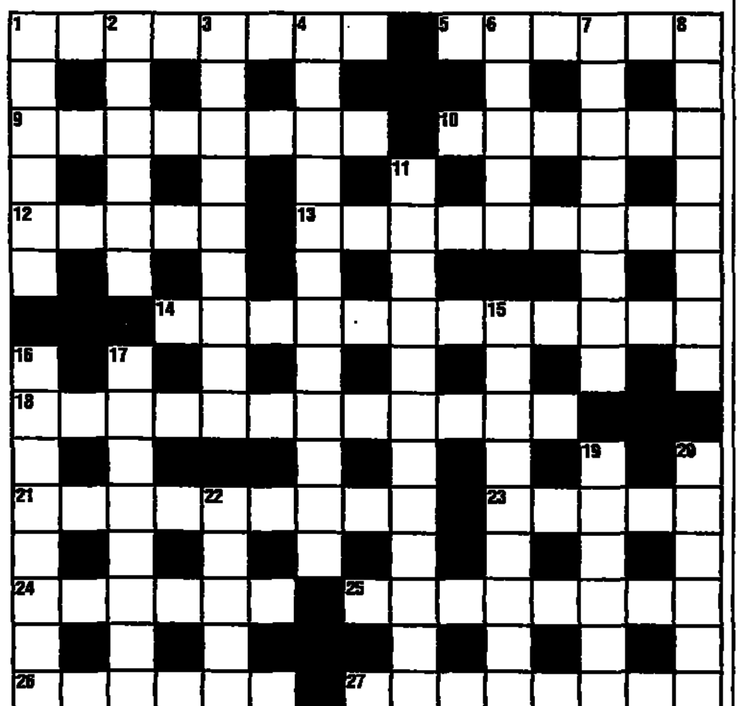
Film of the Week: *Four Weddings and a Funeral* finally comes to the small screen. Wednesday, Channel 4, 9pm.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,010

A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a fine leather credit card wallet, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....



ACROSS

1 Move from French border into river (8).
5 Relish Lions being in the lead (6).
9 According to René, lacking capital? Well, sort of (8).
10 Chap brings back pictures, inspiration for meditation (6).
12 One's in the right to have a lazy morning (3,2).
13 Testing hearing in the open (6,3).
14 Independent finally removed gloves like this? (3,4,5).
18 Where one may exercise, never meeting obstructions (8,4).
21 One sharing the risk makes money more safe (2-7).
23 Nothing pleasant gets deferred (2,3).
24 One raises game to become a winner (6).
25 Almost returned sick to America — with this? (8).
26 Such a poet won't go blank (6).
27 A desperate call to import top protective fabric (8).

DOWN

1 Died young, with much affection (6).
2 Rather dull affair (6).
3 Bitter here has no head — not quite complete (9).
4 Intimate how one may follow suit? (5-2-5).
6 A cockfight joined with utmost vigour (5).
7 In court, crucial moment decided part of argument (3,5).
8 Approve picking up small weight for exercise (8).
11 Northerners are upset here by parson (12).
15 Spoil with discordant noise? Quite the reverse (9).
16 When depressed, one gives no impression of character (5-3).
17 Service book is dull (8).
19 Bear friend in litter (6).
20 Some clever suspects central to legal case (6).
22 Weeds damaged vegetable crop (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,004

U	P	S	E	T		I	N	H	A	R	N	E	S	S
R		T		R		R		I		E		M		T
S	P	I	T	I	T	O	U	T		A	P	P	L	E
A		L		A		N		T		L		I		R
M	U	L	I	S	H		C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N
A				S		S		E		Y		I		
J	U	S	T	I	N	C	A	S	E		S	C	A	R
O		H		C		A		A		M		A		O
R	E	A	R		S	P	E	C	T	A	C	L	E	S
		N		T		E		K		R				I
B	E	G	R	U	D	G	E		A	M	A	Z	O	N
A		R		R		R		A		O		A		A
T	H	I	N	G		A	D	M	I	S	S	I	O	N
C		L		I		C		O		E		R		T
H	E	A	D	D	R	E	S	S		T	H	E	M	E

Solution to Puzzle No 20,009

T	H	E	S	E	S		L	O	N	D	O	N	E	R
	E		E		P		E			O		O		U
R	E	E	N	L	I	S	T		B	O	B	B	I	N
	D		T		R		O			M		L		N
A	L	G	E	R	I	A	N		B	I	R	E	M	E
	E		N		T		E			N		M		R
	S		C	O	U	R	S	I	N	G		A		U
I	S	L	E		A		H		O		S	N	I	P
N		I		C	L	E	A	N	C	U	T		N	
T		N		U			I		T		R		S	
H	A	G	G	L	E		R	O	U	L	E	T	T	E
E		U		V			D		R		A		A	
B	L	I	M	E	Y		O	R	N	A	M	E	N	T
A		S		R			W		A		E		C	
G	O	T	O	T	O	W	N		L	A	R	D	E	R

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *D L Thomas, Cardigan, Dyfed; J George, London; P G Burnett, Hughenden Valley, Bucks; M de Burca, Dublin; J S Wills, Cheltenham, Glos.*

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TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the code.

Region	Code
Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts, Gloucs, Avon, Soms	705
Berks, Bucks, Oxon	706
Beds, Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops, Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness, Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute all other times

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
7.11 am	4.18 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
10.37 am	7.39 pm

Last quarter November 15

London 4.18 pm to 7.13 am
Bristol 4.28 pm to 7.22 am
Edinburgh 4.13 pm to 7.42 am
Manchester 4.19 pm to 7.28 am
Penzance 4.44 pm to 7.30 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
7.13 am	4.16 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
11.17 am	8.35 pm

Last quarter November 15

London 4.16 pm to 7.14 am
Bristol 4.26 pm to 7.24 am
Edinburgh 4.11 pm to 7.44 am
Manchester 4.17 pm to 7.30 am
Penzance 4.42 pm to 7.31 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	3.31	6.89	3.56	6.70
Aberdeen	3.18	4.05	3.27	4.07
Avonmouth	9.05	12.44	9.24	12.04
Belfast	0.48	3.28	1.06	3.55
Cardiff	9.04	11.57	9.21	11.08
Devonport	7.29	5.28	7.49	5.01
Dover	0.49	6.47	0.58	6.34
Dublin	1.23	3.89	1.45	4.01
Falmouth	7.12	4.91	7.25	4.46
Glasgow	2.52	4.32	3.04	4.65
Harwich	1.35	3.89	1.54	3.86
Holyhead	0.01	5.25	0.17	5.33
Hull	8.17	6.87	8.25	6.96
Ilfracombe	7.48	8.60	8.11	8.31
King's Lynn	8.21	6.11	8.35	6.11
Leith	4.24	5.24	4.36	5.22
Liverpool	0.57	8.86	1.10	8.75
Lowestoft	11.29	2.42	11.38	2.46
Margate	1.42	4.60	1.59	4.50
Milford Haven	8.06	6.57	8.26	6.29
Newquay	7.05	6.36	7.23	6.05
Oban	7.24	3.90	7.50	3.68
Penzance	5.37	5.15	6.53	4.94
Portland	8.15	1.98	8.38	1.72
Portsmouth	1.07	4.53	1.20	4.50
Shoreham	1.04	5.90	1.07	5.80
Southampton	0.30	4.32	0.47	4.36
Swansea	8.13	8.89	8.33	8.60
Tees	5.36	4.95	5.49	5.02
W'ton-on-Nze	1.25	3.99	1.44	3.98

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Sandown, Isle of Wight, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Altnaharra, Highlands, 6C (43F); highest rainfall: Dunkeswell, Devon, 1.14in; highest sunshine: Tiree, Inner Hebrides, 5.9hr

FORECAST

☐ **General:** much of England and Wales will have a wet start. The rain should soon clear away from the southeast as drier and brighter weather arrives, then edges across the rest of the country.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a cloudy and wet day with some heavy rain. The Northern Isles will have sunny intervals and scattered showers. It will be windy in the North.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia:** any early rain clearing, then dry with some brighter spells developing. Wind southeast, moderate. Very mild. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **Central S England, E England, Midlands, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N, NE England:** cloudy with outbreaks of rain at first. Drier and brighter weather will spread from the south. Very mild. Max 15C (59F).

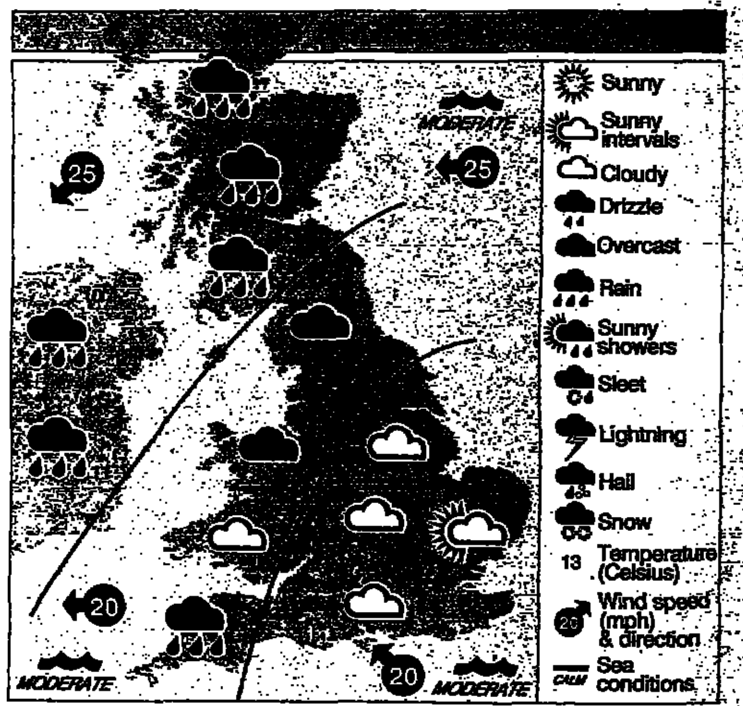
☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, Wales:** cloudy with outbreaks of rain. Becoming a little brighter in the afternoon, but there will still be a risk of some showers. Wind east or southeast, moderate to fresh. Very mild. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland:** cloudy with outbreaks of rain, heavy at times. Wind east or northeast, fresh, locally strong. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland:** dry start, but rain spreading from south. Wind east or northeast fresh, locally strong. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** sunny intervals with scattered showers. Wind easterly fresh to strong. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Outlook:** cloudy with some rain in the west, but drier further east.



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

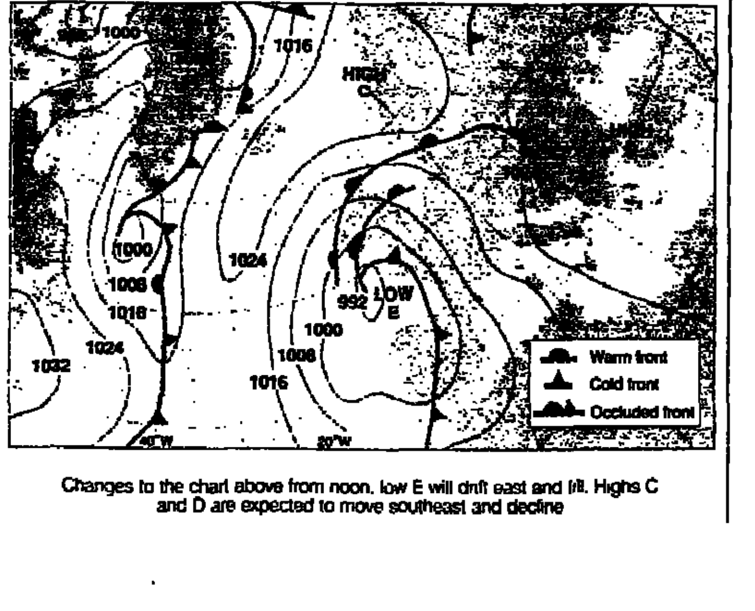
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.2	0.13	7	45	c
Anglesey	0.1	-	9	48	c
Aspatria	-	-	7	45	c
Aviemore	3.6	-	7	45	b
Belfast	2.6	0.08	9	48	sh
Birmingham	-	0.37	9	48	r
Bognor R	-	0.32	11	52	c
Bournem'th	-	0.21	12	54	c
Bristol	-	0.37	11	52	r
Buxton	-	0.11	7	45	r
Cardiff	-	0.44	8	48	r
Clacton	0.4	0.17	12	54	c
Colwyn Bay	-	-	8	46	c
Cromer	0.5	0.43	12	54	c
Doncaster	X				
Dunbar	X				
Eastbourne	-	0.13	11	52	du
Edinburgh	0.5	0.01	10	50	c
Eskdalemuir	-	0.04	7	45	r
Exmouth	-	1.04	10	50	r
Falmouth	-	0.06	11	52	c
Fishguard	-	-	9	48	c
Folkestone	0.4	0.30	11	52	c
Glasgow	3.0	0.15	9	48	s
Guernsey	-	-	13	55	c
Hastings	-	0.14	11	52	c
Hayling I.	0.6	0.21	13	55	r
Herne Bay	0.2	0.26	10	50	c
Hove	0.1	0.26	12	54	c
Hunstanton	-	0.37	11	52	r
Ilfracombe	X				
Isle of Man	0.4	0.19	9	48	r
Jersey	0.3	-	11	52	c
Kinloss	X				
Leeds	-	0.27	9	48	r
Lerwick	2.6	0.03	8	46	sh
Leuchars	0.8	0.01	9	48	sh
Littlehmptn	0.3	0.41	12	54	c
Liverpool	-	0.03	9	48	r
London	-	0.25	12	54	c
Lowestoft	0.3	0.13	12	54	c
Manchester	-	0.06	9	48	r
Margate	0.3	0.11	10	50	c
Minehead	-	0.62	10	50	r
Morecambe	-	0.01	10	50	r
Newcastle	-	0.40	9	48	r
Newquay	-	0.06	10	50	c
Norwich	X				
Nottingham	X				
Oxford	X				
Penzance	-	0.04	13	55	r
Plymouth	X				
Poole	-	0.20	13	55	r
Prestatyn	X				
Ross-o-wye	-	0.30	9	48	r
Sandown	0.2	0.20	13	55	c
Sauntn Snd	-	0.05	11	52	du
Scarboro'	-	0.12	10	50	du
Shanklin	0.4	0.26	12	54	c
Shrewsbury	-	0.12	7	45	r
Skegness	-	0.37	11	52	r
Southend	1.1	0.41	12	54	c
Southport	-	0.01	9	48	d
Southsea	-	0.32	12	54	r
Stornoway	3.0	-	10	50	b
Swanage	-	0.31	13	55	r
Teignmouth	-	0.84	11	52	r
Tenby	-	-	10	50	d
Tiree	5.9	0.48	9	48	s
Torquay	-	0.97	11	52	r
Ventnor	0.2	0.24	12	54	c
Weymouth	-	0.30	12	54	r

ABROAD

	C	F	
Ajaccio	20	68	c
Akrotiri	17	63	s
Alex'dria	20	68	f
Algiers	27	81	s
Amst'dm	9	48	f
Athens	13	55	c
B Aires	19	66	c
Bahrain	29	84	s
Bangkok	30	86	c
Barbados	30	86	s
Barcelona	19	66	d
Beirut	18	64	s
Belgrade	4	39	s
Berlin	10	50	c
Bermuda	22	72	s
Biarritz	19	66	f
Borde'x	13	55	f
Brussels	9	48	f
Budapst	1	34	s
Cairo	23	73	f
Cape Tn	23	73	s
Ch'church	X		
Chicago	1	34	f
Cologne	9	48	f
Corfu	14	57	s
C'phagn	9	48	r
Dublin	8	46	c
Dubrovnik	12	54	f
Faro	20	68	f
Florence	15	59	r
Frankfurt	9	48	r
Funchal	22	72	f
Geneva	10	50	f
Gibraltar	18	64	c
Helsinki	3	37	r
Hong K	27	81	s
Innsbrck	11	52	s
Istanbul	7	45	s
Jeddah	32	90	s
Jo'burg	24	75	f
Karachi	33	91	s
L Angels	18	64	f
L Palmas	24	75	s
Le Touquet	11	52	f
Lisbon	14	57	r
Locarno	9	48	c
Luxembg	9	48	f
Luxor	26	79	s
Madrid	13	55	r
Majorca	22	72	f
Malaga	19	66	f
Malta	18	64	c
Melb'rne	17	63	f
Miami	27	81	s
Milan	10	50	c
Montreal	-5	23	x
Moscow	-3	27	sn
Munich	6	43	s
N Delhi	27	81	s
N York	4	39	s
Nairobi	28	82	f
Naples	19	66	s
Nice	13	55	f
Oslo	1	34	f
Paris	13	55	f
Peking	18	64	s
Perth	21	70	f
Prague	4	39	c
Reykjavik	0	32	s
Rhodes	12	54	s
Rio de J	34	93	s
Riyadh	31	88	s
Rome	17	63	f
S Fr'isco	16	61	c
S Paulo	32	90	c
Salzburg	7	45	s
Santiago	24	75	s
Seoul	10	50	s
Sing'por	32	90	f
St'kholm	3	37	c
Strasb'rg	9	48	f
Sydney	33	91	f
Tangier	21	70	s
Tel Aviv	17	63	f
Tenerife	24	75	c
Tokyo	17	63	s
Toronto	-2	28	sn
Tunis	21	70	s
Valencia	19	66	f
Vanc'ver	7	45	s
Venice	11	52	f
Vienna	5	41	c
Warsaw	2	36	c
Wash'ton	5	41	s
Wel'ngton	17	63	f
Zurich	5	41	s

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to the chart above from noon, low E will drift east and fill. Highs C and D are expected to move southeast and decline

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WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11 1995

ENOCH POWELL: THE MARKETPLACE ROMANTIC

By Michael Cockerell

Few people are neutral about Enoch Powell. In his prime some loved him, some hated him and some thought him mad. Nor were these groups mutually exclusive. Powell was the most controversial of all postwar Tory politicians, apart from Margaret Thatcher. "Enoch was the best Parliamentarian I ever knew,' Baroness Thatcher says. "Everything in Enoch's speeches had to be worked out from first principles. Whenever he rose to speak, people would flood into the House to listen to him: it was just a wonderful experience."

Roy Hattersley, for years a fellow West Midlands MP, puts it rather differently: "Much of what Powell said was pure balderdash. The secret of his success with bone-headed Tory backbenchers was built around talking nonsense in pretentious language, which they always mistook for wisdom."

It is far from easy to distil the essence of Powell. He has never written his autobiography. "To return to one's past doings would be like a dog returning to his vomit," he said when we first approached him to make the television portrait, *Odd Man Out*, which will be shown on BBC2 tonight.

Making a film about Powell is like taking a long cross-country drive without a map. Often when you think you are progressing, the road turns out either to be the wrong one, or a dead-end, or a U-turn. Powell is a man of paradox and perversity.

He prides himself on his completely logical mind, yet he is passionately emotional. He fell in love with India during the Second World War, yet he later vehemently opposed Indians coming to live in Britain. He says he was born and will die a Tory, yet he twice advised the electors to vote Labour. And he is a man who seems psychologically at his happiest attaching himself to a lost cause.

Powell was born in a thunderstorm to two Birmingham schoolteachers in 1912. He was a precociously bright only child — so good at Latin and Greek that he would correct his classics masters at his grammar school. He says that he takes after his mother, who had first taught him Greek at home.

"My mother and I were not gentlemen. My father was a gentleman in all his instincts, and this was something that I felt I didn't share. There was something harder, more aggressive in my character, which I shared with my mother: the feeling that we had to fight for whatever we were going to get. I was close to my mother, possibly too close.

"I only realised when she died that my father and I were jealous of one another for my mother's love."

In 1930 Powell won a scholarship to Trinity College, Cambridge, a training ground for future Cabinet ministers, spies and classical scholars. He took the third option. "I knew nothing else but to work; I had no social life at all."

But what about women at Cambridge?

"They didn't exist," Powell replied.

You must have noticed them, surely?

"Yes, I noticed them. I wondered what they were doing there. I didn't think they would approach advanced learning in the same mood or manner as a man."

Although he claims he knew no women at Cambridge, it was there that Powell wrote his

Continued on page 3, col 1

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CHOICE

Planning to see a show or a film, an exhibition or a concert? *The Times* critics select the best entertainment

DANCE

John Percival

SWAN LAKE: Swans with a difference in Matthew Bourne's new treatment for his company Adventures in Motion Pictures. An all-male *corps de ballet* and, in the lead, Royal Ballet star Adam Cooper (or company member David Hughes — matinées 11, 18, 25, evenings, 16, 23) as the mysterious swan who fascinates the hero. In contrast to his comic popular reinterpretations of *The Nutcracker* and *La Sylphide*, Bourne says he is playing this one straight, taking his ideas from the music. The New London Orchestra will be in the pit for the London run with David Lloyd Jones conducting; designs are by Lez Brotherston.
Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (0171-713 6000), 7.30pm, 2.30pm on Sat and Thur, until November 25. ♿

HUGO GLENDINNING

Swan with a difference: Adam Cooper leads Matthew Bourne's company, Adventures in Motion Pictures, in a gender-bending production of *Swan Lake* at Sadler's Wells, London

BALLET CLASSIQUE D'EUROPE: Elena Pankova is remembered as one of the sweetest, most charming of Kirov ballerinas. Lately she and her husband Kirill Melnikov have been dancing with the Bavarian State Ballet in Munich, but now they and ten other dancers are touring Britain with what appears to be a highly ambitious programme for so small a group, namely extracts from the classics — *La Bayadère*, *Swan Lake* and *Paquita* — as well as a new work, *Tangos at Midnight*, set to music by the celebrated Argentine composer Astor Piazolla.
Regent Theatre, Ipswich (01473 281480), today, 7.30pm; **Wimbledon Theatre**, London SW19 (0181-540 0362), tomorrow, 7.30pm; **Corn Exchange**, Bedford (01234 269519), Mon 13, 8pm; **Opera House**, Blackpool (01253 27786), Tues 14, 7.30pm; **Festival Hall**, Corby, Northants (01536 402233), Wed 15, 7.30pm; Thur 16, 1.30pm; **Ryde Theatre**, Isle of Wight (01983 568099), Fri 17, 7.30pm.

FILMS

Geoff Brown

LIVING IN OBLIVION (15): The title may suggest some modern Dostoevsky moaning at us in black-and-white; but this second feature from Tom DiCillo, director of *Johnny Suede*, offers nothing but laughter. The action unfolds on the set of a low-budget film in New York; or at least the action would unfold if only actors did not preen, and the director stopped having nightmares. The film began as an off-the-cuff short, and the material is overstretched at 90 minutes. An excellent cast, led by Steve Buscemi, keep the jokes coming.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323); **MGMs: Haymarket** (0171-839 1527), **Panton Street** (0171-930 0631); **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121).

LONDON FILM FESTIVAL: Some of the films in the festival's last week should help to shake off the winter blues. Carlos Saura's latest dance film, *Flamenco* (tomorrow, Mon 13), will raise anyone's temperature, while you will find it impossible not to warm to the Iranian *The White Balloon* (Mon 13). Lars von Trier's weird television medical soap opera *The Kingdom* (today) lasts five hours. Elsewhere, you can find droll American comedy (*Denise Calls Up*, Thur 16), a pointed Chinese comedy about the Peking police (*On the Beat*, tomorrow), and Michael Curtiz's silent Biblical epic *Sodom and Gomorrah* (today). The end of the week brings stage encounters with Pedro Almodóvar, Spike Lee and John Mills: a trio unlikely to make a film together.
National Film Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-928 3232).

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC: Stephen Sondheim never created sharper, cleverer lyrics than for this musical version of Ingmar Bergman's film, *Smiles of a Summer Night*. Moreover, Sean Matthias's cast is stronger than the one Hal Prince assembled for the show in London 20 years ago. With Judi Dench bringing a genuine sense of loss to *Send in the Clowns*, Sondheim's tale of marriages in crisis maintains both its cynical humour and its melancholy magic.
National, Olivier, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-928 2252). Evenings: Wed 15 to Sat 18, 7.15pm; matinées: Thur 16, Sat, 18, 2pm. Continues in repertoire. ♿

THE MASTER BUILDER: Ibsen began his career by writing heavy poetic drama, continued with realistic plays, and ended with such strange masterpieces as this. Ditto architect Solness, who gives up building both churches and houses in favour of "castles in the air". You are left in little doubt by Alan Bates and the rest of Peter Hall's fine cast that *The Master Builder* was a strongly felt piece of crypto-autobiography: the tale of a man, like its ageing author, desperate to escape the constraints of profession, domesticity and life itself.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, London SW1 (0171-930 8800). Evenings: Mon to Sat, 7.45pm; matinées: Wed, Sat, 3pm. ♿

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

THE FAIRY QUEEN: David Pountney's highly theatrical romp through Purcell's semi-opera has sharply divided critics, but English National Opera audiences are loving it. The music is safe in the hands of the conducter Nicholas Kok, and there is fine singing from the cast headed by Yvonne Kenny, Janis Kelly, Mary Hegarty, Michael Chance and Jonathan Best. All right, we've done scholarship in Purcell year, isn't it time for a bit of sheer enjoyment, which was absolutely central to the work of our British Orpheus?
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-632 8300), tonight, Fri 17, 7.30pm. ♿

Theatrical romp: Yvonne Kenny as the Fairy Queen

MATHIS DER MALER: The protagonist of Hindemith's opera is the painter Matthias Grünewald, creator of the Isenheim altarpiece, but the subject is the role of the artist in times of political upheaval, about which the composer knew a lot. The Nazis got the point and banned *Mathis* — it was premiered in Zurich in 1938. Since the producer of the Royal Opera's new staging is the *doyen terrible* Peter Sellars, making his London debut, contemporary concerns may well go unstressed. The strong cast is led by Alan Titus, Wolfgang Fassler, Stig Anderson and Inga Nielson, and the conducter is Esa-Pekka Salonen. Thanks to the Foundation for Sports and Arts, seat prices are affordable, so take the advantage of them.
Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (0171-304 4000), Thur 16, 7pm.

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

HUDDERSFIELD: For the first time the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival pays extended tribute to a dead composer: Luigi Nono, the avant-garde iconoclast who died five years ago. Many of his pieces — remarkable explorations of intermingled electronic and live sounds — will be new to Britain. Also featured this year is the ultra-complex, but (say his supporters) increasingly sensuous music of James Dillon; plus the 60-year-old father of minimalism, Terry Riley; and a full programme of music theatre, including the piece that opens the festival on Wednesday: Judith Weir's creepy *The Black Spider*. All credit to the Halifax Building Society for sponsoring the most adventurous of all British festivals.
Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival (booking and information 01484 430528), Wed to Nov 26.

HINDEMITH VIOLAS: Like London buses, you wait ages for one fascinating festival, then along come two together. While Huddersfield celebrates the new, London's International Hindemith Festival at the Wigmore Hall celebrates not only the German composer whose centenary falls this year, but also the Cinderella stringed instrument which he played so masterfully. The great Japanese viola player Nobuko Imai is the director and key performer here: the music ranges from world premieres to the inevitable Brahms sonatas.
Wigmore Hall, Wigmore St, London W1 (0171-935 2141), Wed 15 to Sun 19. ♿

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

TURNER PRIZE: The annual Tate Gallery show of front runners for the £20,000 Turner Prize has been dominated, so far, by publicity over Damien Hirst's *Mother and Child Divided*. However, there are plenty of memorable exhibits. Mona Hatoum takes us on a journey through her own body, with the help of tiny medical cameras. Mark Wallinger explores race horse breeding, and joins two animals together in a disturbing hybrid body. Callum Innes, by contrast, is a sensuous abstract painter. He applies colour to his canvas and then washes some of it away with turpentine.
Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 ♿ (0171-887 8000), until December 3. *Richard Cork will give a tour on November 21 at 1pm.*

Mark Wallinger's self-portrait *My Little Eye*, 1995 (detail)

THE BRITISH ART SHOW: In a magnificent spirit of collaboration, as many as seven galleries in central Manchester are staging this mammoth exhibition of new art. As one of the selectors, with Rose Finn-Kelcey and Thomas Lawson, I hope the show does justice to the exceptional vitality of our contemporary artists. The biggest space is a newly converted Victorian building, Upper Campfield Market. Here, more than half the 26 artists are housed, with work ranging from figurative painting to Damien Hirst's celebrated sheep in a formaldehyde tank. The most ambitious installations can be found elsewhere: Douglas Gordon and Ceal Floyer at the Metropolitan Galleries, Mat Collishaw at the Chinese Arts Centre, Georgina Starr at the City Art Galleries, Anya Gallaccio at the Castlefield Gallery, and Bridget Smith alongside Marcus Taylor at the Whitworth Art Gallery. Finally, at Cornerhouse, Mark Wallinger shares the three-storey space with Catherine Yass's lightbox photographs, Julie Robert's paintings and a video installation by Sam Taylor-Wood.
Various venues (information: 0161-953 4239), tomorrow to February 4.

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

WESTMINSTER KINGS AND THE MEDIEVAL PALACE OF WESTMINSTER: Without the Reformation much more medieval English art would have survived. But accidents also have their share of the blame: the fire which consumed most of the medieval Palace of Westminster in 1834 destroyed some very grand examples, even though it spared the six lifesize statues of kings of England in the unburnt Westminster Hall. These have now been cleaned and restored and are a key item in this show full of art and anecdote.
British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (0171-636 1555), Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 2.30-6pm, until January 14. ♿

BRIGHTON REVEALED: Brighton rose from a humble fishing village to a fashionable seaside resort in the later 18th century. Artists were there almost immediately, Rowlandson among the earliest, and many watercolourists of the time. This show includes their work, and some of Pugin Senior's glittering records of the Royal Pavilion interiors. But its climax comes with the paintings of the old Chain Pier by Constable and Turner, with related drawings and sketches. The town goes on to inspire artists of the 1890s such as Conder and Sickert, and on to Piper, Bawden and Ruskin Spear.
Brighton Museum and Art Gallery, Chapel Street, Brighton (01273 603005), Mon, Tues, Thur-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 2-5pm, until January 28.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

LONDON INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL: Curmudgeons will have to work hard to think of a contemporary style that has been overlooked in this year's programme. Flying in from left field are Lester Bowie and the Art Ensemble of Chicago (Queen Elizabeth Hall, Thur 16). Fusion *aficionados* can look forward to the soft-focus instrumentals of Spyro Gyra (Shepherd's Bush Empire, Tues 14), while the saxophonist Barbara Thompson will join the Medici String Quartet in an adaptation of the music of Kurt Weill (QEH, Fri 17). Among the other highlights are John Surman, Mike Westbrook and funk party animals Incognito.
Various venues, London (information: 0171-405 5974), today to Sun 19.

GEORGE RUSSELL: Some heavy-duty big bands have passed through this country over the past year. None is quite as intimidating as George Russell's Living Time Orchestra. Russell specialises in bands which combine the dexterity of jazz with bone-crushing rhythms that are sometimes more reminiscent of Led Zeppelin. The line-up for his Contemporary Music Network tour boasts a British contingent, including Andy Sheppard.
***London Jazz Festival:* Queen Elizabeth Hall**, South Bank, London SE1 ♿ (0171-960 4242), tonight; **Turner Sims Hall**, Southampton ♿ (01703 595151), Fri 17; **The Forum**, North Parade, Bath ♿ (01225 463362), Sat 18; **Town Hall**, Birmingham (0121-605 6666), Sun 19; **Lawrence Batley Theatre**, Huddersfield ♿ (01484 425082), Mon 20.

ROCK

David Sinclair

DAVID BOWIE/MORRISSEY: David Bowie's new album, *Outside*, is a disappointingly opaque affair, and he has sworn never to play his old hits again. But you cannot write off a performer of his stature, especially when accompanied by a band including Carlos Alomar, Reeves Gabrels and Mike Garson, and supported by a star as big as Morrissey to open the show.
Wembley Arena, Middlesex ♿ (0181-900 1234), Nov 14, 15, 17, 18; **NEC**, Birmingham ♿ (0121-780 4133), Nov 20, 21; **King's Hall**, Belfast ♿ (01232 323 744), Nov 23; **Point Depot**, Dublin ♿ (00353 14 569569), Nov 24; **Westpoint Arena**, Exeter ♿ (0990 321 321), Nov 26; **Cardiff International Arena** ♿ (01222 224488), Nov 27; **Aberdeen Exhibition Centre** ♿ (01224 620 011), Nov 29; **SECC**, Glasgow ♿ (0141-248 9999), Nov 30; **Sheffield Arena** ♿ (0114 565 656), Dec 3, 4; **Nynex Arena**, Manchester ♿ (0161-930 8000), Dec 6; **Newcastle Arena** ♿ (0191-401 8000), Dec 7.

FINN: Having weathered a stormy sibling relationship both in and out of Crowded House, New Zealanders Neil and Tim Finn have teamed up as a duo and released their own album under the name of *Finn*. An idiosyncratic combination of traditional, Beatles-influenced melodies and unusual instrumentation (ukelele, tea chest bass, ancient keyboard), it sounds more like a rough demo than a rock star's acoustic indulgence.
Renfrew Ferry, Glasgow (0141-552 0767), Nov 13; **City Varieties Hall**, Leeds (0113 243 0808), Nov 14; **Union Chapel**, London N1 ♿ (0171-226 1686), Nov 15, 16.

WEST END THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London
■ **House full, returns only** ◩ **Some seats available** □ **Seats at all prices**

◩ **THE CABINET OF DOKTOR CALIGARI** A stage version of the German silent classic. Good sets, unearthly music, pointless dancing but a haunting performance by John Ramm as Matthew Kelly's sleepwalking killer
Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith W6 (0181-741 2311) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. ♿

□ **DEAD FUNNY** Belinda Lang, Kevin McNally and Sam Kelly in Terry Johnson's sharply funny play about comics and some of their fans
Savoy, The Strand WC2 (0171-836 8888). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5pm. ♿

■ **EDDIE IZZARD** The quirky comedian returns for another season of surreal musings on life
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Ave, WC2 (0171-379 5399) Tue-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 7.30pm. ♿

□ **THE GRANNIE** Black satire by Argentinian Roberto Cossa. Richard Kane and Ken Wynne struggle to avert financial ruin as their 100-year-old nona eats everything in sight. Jennie Lee directs this LWT Plays on Stage award-winner
Attic, Wimbledon, Broadway, SW19 (0181-542 6141) Now previewing, 8pm. Opens Nov 14, until Dec 9.

□ **HOBSON'S CHOICE** Leo McKern in the title role of Harold Brighouse's warm-hearted comedy. Nichole McAuliffe and Graham Turner excellent as daughter and son-in-law
Lyric, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (0171-494 5045) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sat, 3pm. ♿

□ **THE HOTHOUSE** Assailed by crises in a mysterious detention centre, Harold Pinter is marvellously funny, heading the strong cast in his own, long-buried play. With Tony Haygarth, Celia Imrie and John Shrapnel
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 4pm

◩ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS** Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road WC2 (0171-494 5085) Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm.

◩ **KING LEAR** Warren Mitchell tackles the big one in Jude Kelly's production down from Leeds
Hackney Empire, Mare Street, E8 (0181-985 2424) Now previewing, 7.30pm, opens Nov 15, until Dec 3

□ **JEFFREY DAHMER IS UNWELL** Alan Francis and Mike Hanley in their surreal black comedy hit of the Edinburgh Festival: two flat mates, one obsessed with serial killers, the other with model aeroplanes.
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre NW3 (0171-722 9301) Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 5.30 and 8.30pm. Until Nov 18 ♿

Brian Conley in *Jolson* at the Victoria Palace

■ **JOLSON** The highs and lows of the singer with with a monster ego. Brian Conley belts out the songs enjoyably and Sally Ann Triplett is an impressive Ruby Keeler
Victoria Palace, Victoria Street SW1 (0171-834 1317) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. ♿

◩ **MACK AND MABEL** The Jerry Herman musical set in the early Hollywood of Mack Sennett and Mabel Normand. Fine songs, though a troublesome book, with Howard McGillin and a bubbling impish Caroline O'Sullivan
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

□ **THE MASTER BUILDER** Peter Hall's cosy version of Ibsen, with Alan Bates, Gemma Jones and Victoria Hamilton
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm ♿

□ **MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN** Diana Rigg in title role of Brecht's epic denunciation of war. Jonathan Kent directs a new version by David Hare
National (Olivier), South Bank SE1 (0171-928 2252) Now previewing, 7.15pm; mat today, 2pm. Opens Nov 14, 7pm. Then in rep ♿

□ **THE PARK:** Botho Strauss's continuation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* into the present day. The focus wobbles but there are many ingeniously sour insights into modern life and love
Pit, Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891) Tonight-Thurs, 7.15pm, mats today and Thurs, 3pm. Last performances. ♿

◩ **RAT IN THE SKULL:** Tony Doyle and Rufus Sewell battle out the torments of Ulster in Ron Hutchinson's engrossing play. Stephen Daldry directs
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm ♿

□ **RUPERT STREET LONELY HEARTS CLUB** Jonathan Harvey's emotional musical chairs among the friends of two Liverpool brothers. Co-production with Manchester's Contact
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street WC2 (0171-369 1732) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 4pm ♿

◩ **THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE** A witty evening of song, dance and sketches to do with William S. Assembled by Christopher Luscombe and Malcolm McKee. A recent sell-out at the Barbican
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) Previews today, 5.30 and 8.30pm; opens Mon, 7pm

□ **TAKING SIDES** Enthralling drama by Ronald Harwood, based on the investigations of conductor Furtwängler's alleged Nazi sympathies. Superb performances by Daniel Massey and Michael Pennington
Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, WC2 (0171-369 1747) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm

■ **THREE TALL WOMEN** Maggie Smith, Sara Kestelman and Samantha Bond in Edward Albee's fascinating play about the adoptive mother who withered his childhood
Wyndhams, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736) Tue-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

□ **VIVAT! VIVAT REGINA!** Janet McTeer and Barbara Flynn play the queens in Robert Bolt's now old-fashioned drama of the rivalry between Elizabeth I and Mary, Queen of Scots
Mermaid, Puddle Dock, EC4 (0171-236 2211) Tue-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, 2pm and Sat, 5pm. ♿

◩ **WHAT A SHOW!** Musical spectacular revolving around Tommy Steele, remembering the old days
Prince of Wales, Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5987) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm and Sat, 5pm

LONG RUNNERS

■ **Buddy** Strand (0171-930 8800) ◩ **Communicating Doors** Gielgud (0171-494 5530) □ **Dead Guilty** Apollo (0171-494 5070) □ **Don't Dress for Dinner** Duchess (0171-494 5070) ■ **Five Guys Named Moe** Albery (0171-369 1730) ◩ **The Importance of Being Earnest** Old Vic (0171-928 7616) ◩ **Indian Ink** Aldwych (0171-416 6003) ■ **Miss Saigon** Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) ◩ **Oliver!** Palladium (0171-494 5020) ■ **Sunset Boulevard** Adelphi (0171-344 0055) ◩ **The Woman in Black** Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

EXQUISITE TENDERNESS (18) Nasty medical thriller with a less than lustrous cast (Isabel Glasser, James Remar). Director, Carl Schenkel
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561)

LIVING IN OBLIVION (15) Trials and tribulations of making a low-budget movie. Delicious comedy from director Tom DiCillo, with Steve Buscemi
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Panton Street** (0171-930 0631) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

◆ **PANTHER** (15) Hurtling, rose-tinted drama about the rise of the Black Panther movement in the 1960s. Mario Van Peebles directs Kadeem Hardison and Bokeem Woodbine
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** ♿ (0171-437 1234) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

THE SOUND OF MUSIC (U) Thirtieth anniversary revival of the musical marshmallow, with Julie Andrews, Christopher Plummer, and some ravishing Alpine scenery. Director, Robert Wise
Plaza (0171-437 1234)

◆ **TO WONG FOO THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, JULIE NEWMAR** (PG). New York drag queens charm the mid-West. Cosy comedy drama, with Patrick Swayze, Wesley Snipes and John Leguizamo. Director, Beeban Kidron
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Rd** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

WHEN NIGHT IS FALLING (18): Canadian lesbian drama with a good heart but too much flimsy whimsy. Writer-director, Patricia Rozema (*I've Heard the Mermaids Singing*)
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Metro** (0171-437 0757) **MGM Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

CURRENT

◆ **APOLLO 13** (PG) The near-fatal moon mission of 1970. Splendid images, but conventional drama. With Tom Hanks, Kevin Bacon and Ed Harris; director, Ron Howard
Empire ♿ (0990 888990) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **BRAVEHEART** (15) Overly bloodthirsty epic, with Mel Gibson as the 13th century Scottish rebel William Wallace. Gibson also directs
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** ♿ (01426 915683) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234)

THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY (12) Best-selling romantic tosh given the kid-glove treatment by director Clint Eastwood, who co-stars with Meryl Streep
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Panton Street** (0171-930 0631) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **CLUELESS** (12) Life and empty minds of Beverly Hills teenagers. Frivolous fun from director Amy Heckerling, with Alicia Silverstone
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **CRIMSON TIDE** (15) Antique heroics in a nuclear submarine, with Gene Hackman and Denzel Washington. Director, Tony Scott
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Notting Hill Coronet** ♿ (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426-915 683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **FRENCH KISS** (12): Dizzy Meg Ryan gets entangled with French rogue Kevin Kline. Charmless romantic comedy, directed by Lawrence Kasdan
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **JADE** (18) Nasty, meretricious thriller about the ripples caused by a millionaire's murder, with David Caruso, Linda Fiorentino and Chazz Palminteri. Director, William Friedkin
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

To Die For: murderous weather girl Nicole Kidman

FARINELLI (15) The life of an 18th-century castrato. Lots of opera, sex and clothes, but the film only scratches the material's potential. Director, Gérard Corbiau
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Curzon Mayfair** (0171-369 1720) **MGMs: Fulham Road** ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030)

LAND AND FREEDOM (15) Ken Loach's powerful Spanish Civil War drama, with Ian Hart, Rosana Pastor
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772)

◆ **THE NET** (12) New technology, but enjoyable old thrills, with Sandra Bullock as a computer expert in peril. Director, Irwin Winkler
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** ♿ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098)

◆ **POCAHONTAS** (U) Strangely dull slice of American history: a backward step for Disney cartoons after *Aladdin* and *The Lion King*. With the voices of Mel Gibson and Irene Bedard
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

IL POSTINO (U) Heartwarming delight about a simple man opening his eyes to poetry. Wonderful performance by the late Massimo Troisi, directed by Michael Radford.
Gate ♿ (0171-727 4043) **Metro** (0171-437 0757) **MGM Tottenham Ct Rd** (0171-636 6148) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** ♿ (0171-435 3366) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

◆ **TO DIE FOR** (15). Delicious social satire about a television weather girl's murderous lust for glory. Gus Van Sant directs Nicole Kidman and Matt Dillon.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** ♿ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **UNDER SIEGE 2** (18) *Die Hard* on a train, with an impassive star (Steven Seagal), a grinning villain (Eric Bogosian), and much tedious action. Director, Geoff Murphy.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

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Continued from page 1

first book of love poems, which revealed the intensity of feeling beneath the ascetic façade.

Tis true I loved you from the first,
Yet had I turned away,
I should have soon forgot my thirst
and happier been today,
And now your face is graven deep
Upon my inward sight
And when I wake and when I sleep
I see you day and night.
And since our parting is decreed
By laws we cannot break,
The severed tissues long will bleed
And long the wound will ache.

I read that *and other of his* poems to Powell and asked him to whom they were written. "They weren't written to anyone. They were a work of the imagination," he replied.

I said I found it hard to believe, as they seemed to come from personal experience. "It is remarkable there is that intensity of emotion and feeling without any specific object being available," he answered.

I said that, looking through his life, there was often a *seeming contradiction* between the austere image — the black Homburg, the pallid face and the staring eyes — *and the deeply passionate* figure who, the poems revealed, obviously lurked beneath the surface.

"Ah, 'lurked'," he responded. "That is the right word: it's the disassociation between emotional life and the intellectual life that I was living at the same time which I have never previously had brought to my attention so dramatically."

From Cambridge until 1939, when he joined the Army, Powell saw his life as "an intermezzo". He had become convinced, soon after Hitler came to power, that war against Germany was inevitable. But his prescience was limited. He felt the Nazis would win the war — a prospect he dreaded; and that *he would die in the fighting* — a prospect he relished.

His poems at the time were obsessed with what he called *"alluring death"*, and one of them ended: *There are but two things, death and life, And death of these is best.*

During the war Powell worked in Military Intelligence, deploying his skills as a textual critic to unravel intercepted German signals. He became expert in understanding the intentions and psychology of Nazi generals. "The War Office used the part of my body most dangerous to the enemy — my brain. But I am ashamed that I rose from private to brigadier without having seen a shot fired in anger," he says.

Powell taught himself to ride in the Army and, on demobilisation, took up fox-hunting — "The image of war *without* its guilt and *only* 25 per cent of its danger".

It was on the hunting field that he at last found a physical object *for his passions, rather* than an abstraction. He was 38 and she was 24.

Barbara Manna Kennedy was a colonel's daughter from the Shropshire county set. "I was named after the Derby winner of 1925 — the year I was born, so everyone always knows how old I am," she told me. "I couldn't bear to call him Enoch, so I called him John [Powell's first name].

"I was the first girl he had ever taken out. I'm sure we did kiss at the beginning and end of a date, but you would never have had sex before marriage in those days — after all, you might get pregnant.

"I thought he was super: *highly intellectual* and very compelling."

Powell says: "It was the first time I had fallen in love, and *first love is often the most* intense and mysterious of all."

He dedicated a book of poems to his love — identify*ing her only as "B". He read* one to me. It began:

I dreamt that on a mountain crest,
as in the sheep cropped grass we lay . . .

And it ended:

You ceased. The wind that throught the sward
With steady breathing passion swept
From flower and grass and heather blent
Amen to that same sacrament
And silent as it seemed we wept.

There were tears in *Powell's eyes as he* handed me back the poem, saying: "You mustn't put me in such a position where I am overcome by emotion — old emotion, but resummoned by the poetry written under the spell of that emotion."

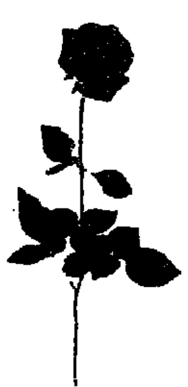
I asked him what had happened to the relationship with Barbara. "It failed. I was not satisfactory," he said.

You mean you wanted to marry her and she turned you down?

"That's right."

Barbara Kennedy says: "I never thought of matrimony. I *never realised he proposed,* but then I sometimes didn't understand a word he was saying he was so erudite. I was *gobsmacked when he said* later that it was a proposal."

> ‘ Every year he sends his wife a poem, and a red rose ’



The woman who did become Mrs Enoch Powell, in 1952, remains her husband's most devoted supporter. Pamela Powell is a political animal, unlike Barbara Kennedy. "Enoch took her to the Com*mons when they were together*, and she thought the Ayes and Noes lobby was the eyes and nose lobby," Mrs Powell *laughs good-naturedly.*

Also a colonel's daughter, Pamela Wilson had worked for Powell in his first post after the war at the Conservative Research Department. "We knew each other quite well as boss and secretary. I found him very attractive: his eyes were very blue and very mes*meric,* and he was great fun. When he proposed to me, on bended knees no less, he said: 'I can't promise you anything *but grinding poverty and a life* totally on the backbenches.'

Barbara Kennedy was 24 at the time she met Enoch Powell, then 38. "I was the first girl he had ever taken out", she says

GUZELIAN

Well, it didn't work out quite like that, *did it?*"

Forty years on they are still happily married, and Powell, on each wedding anniversary, sends his wife a poem which he has written for her, along with a red rose.

"I say, jokingly, that the poems are her pension," Powell says. "I tell her you can publish these when I am dead. I don't know whether this is advice *she will follow; I shall not be* there to see or to receive the royalties."

That last remark neatly sums up the contradictions in Powell: the market-place romantic. Politically, he can justly claim to have been the British father of market eco*nomics. He jokes that Milton* Friedman should have shared his Nobel Prize for economics as he had "purloined" his monetarist theories from Powell.

It was in the mid-Sixties that Powell, as a member of the Shadow Cabinet, first became widely recognised for views well to the right of his leader, Ted Heath. Powell made no secret of his desire to become Prime Minister. A devoted *admirer in the Shadow Cabi*net was Margaret Thatcher.

"I would say, economically we both hold the same views *and I originally got them from* Enoch. He was the first to realise that inflation is to do with the money supply," Lady Thatcher says. "Enoch was marvellous at putting policy across. He spoke with his whole body: you would see his hands going, and his eyes and voice were so powerful."

Powell revealed to me one of the secrets of his rhetorical abilities. "You can't make a big *speech unless you are nervous.* Nerves are part of the act. You should be tense. And if you need to clear your bladder before a big speech, you *should refrain if possible.*"

Powell's bladder was never fuller than on April 20, 1968, the day he made the speech that was to transform his political life. It was the most explosive speech made by any politician since the Second World War. These days Powell *claims that he had no idea of* the furore it would cause, yet examination of his original text suggests otherwise.

Early in the speech, Powell quotes verbatim a conversation he had with one of his constituents:

"In this country in 15 or 20 years' time, the black man will have the whip hand over the white man. Well, I can already hear the chorus of execration. How dare I stir up trouble and *inflame feelings by repeating* such a conversation? My answer is that I do not have the right not to do so."

Powell went on to read from a letter he said he had received about an elderly widow living in Wolverhampton. He said she was the only white resident in a street that had been taken over by immigrants, but she had refused to let any of the seven rooms in her house to them. He quoted from the letter: "She is becoming afraid to go out. Windows are broken. She finds excreta pushed through her letterbox. When *she goes to the shops she is* followed by children — charming wide-grinning piccaninnies. They cannot speak *English, but one word they* know. 'Racialist,' they chant."

Powell said that the growth in the immigrant population *meant that "the nation is busy* heaping up its own funeral pyre". He ended the speech with a line from Virgil: *As I look ahead I am filled with foreboding. Like the Roman I seem to see the Tiber foaming with much blood.* So Rivers of *Blood it became,* though Powell had never used the phrase.

"An Evil Speech", thundered *The Times* in a leader. And Heath sacked Powell from the Shadow Cabinet.

Hattersley, then a junior Home Office minister, says: "The black and Asian British are accustomed to being condemned and abused by men with shaved heads and tattooed biceps.

"But Enoch Powell was a gentleman in pin-striped trousers. When a man who has been a professor, a brigadier and a Cabinet minister attacks the racial minorities, then racism begins to look respectable — that was the real villainy of the speech."

However, many traditional Labour voters saw it differently. The London dockers and the Smithfield meat porters *marched on Parliament* chanting: "We want Enoch Powell." And Powell received so many letters of support from voters of all parties that the Royal Mail even laid on a special van for him.

Powell has always kept the letters to himself but, for tonight's BBC television programme, he allowed us access. Most were in his favour, a small number were straight racialist abuse from the green-ink brigade. But the persistent theme was the concern of people that the Britain they knew and had fought for was changing in front of their eyes in ways they did not like, and they had not been consulted.

Of course, many of those writing were hankering after a world which was disappearing for all sorts of reasons other than immigration — but black people were an immediately identifiable symbol of change. Many letters exhibited people's fear of the alien with savage habits: this was a time when there was no Trevor McDonald reading the main evening television news and virtually no black sports*men in our national football* and cricket teams.

I asked Powell whether he was sorry that his speech had *provided ammunition for ra*cialists, such as the National Front, to use against black people in this country.

"What's wrong with racism?" he replied. "Racism is the basis of nationality. Nations are, upon the whole, united by identity with one another, the self-identification of our citizens. And that's normally due to similarities which we regard as racial similarities." Powell admits to no regrets about the speech, and as for his rivers of blood prophecy, he says: "Well, we have yet to see."

Powell as a Cambridge undergraduate in 1937

He once famously remarked that all political lives, unless cut off in midstream at a happy juncture, end in failure. I asked if that was the verdict he would deliver on his own political career. Characteristically he chopped his own logic.

"Ah, end in political failure, yes. Mine has ended in failure from one point of view. Without a seat, without office, without apparent achievement. But I've achieved a great deal and I hear my voice coming through in what is said. And I see myself being proved right.

"What I had to say about immigration, about the nation and about Europe was *heard* and is still echoing."

The life-long classical scholar can reflect on the supreme *irony in his own life: that the* rivers-of-blood speech transformed him into a national figure, yet at the same time ensured he would never be given what he most wanted: charge of the nation's destiny.

● *Michael Cockerell's film portrait of Enoch Powell,* Odd Man Out, *is on BBC2 tonight at 8.05. The producer is Bill Treharne Jones.*

Ruth Gledhill attends the dedication of Tonbridge School chapel in Kent

Rebuilt from the ashes

WILLIAM BURN, who spoke on the text Tongues of Fire, teaches languages, although it was a while before it occurred to anyone present in chapel that day to interpret his words in a physical sense, or induce metaphysical implications from his name. But none thought it was the work of the Holy Spirit when wisps of smoke floated upwards towards the roof of the chapel in which he had been an hour before, and flames leapt through the delicate tracery of the nave windows.

Tonbridge School chapel, built at the start of the century, burnt down on September 17, 1988, before an assembly of appalled and fascinated boys and local people who gathered on the cricket ground to watch. Nothing remained of the stained glass, organ, panelling, pews, high altar and reredos, and the walls and floor were badly damaged.

After initial plans to build a new chapel at the school, which is in a conservation area, were rejected, the governors decided to *rebuild the burnt-out shell.* With another appropriately named man at the helm, architect Donald Buttress, surveyor for Westminster Abbey, the once *dark and gloomy* building emerged from its ordeal transformed into a magnificent arena of music, light and sacramental worship. At £7 million, it is one *of the most costly* restorations of a British church, but few who see the result of three years' work could argue it had not been worth it.

This was in essence a new church, and new music had been commissioned, but as one of a handful of women there amid *a mass* of boys, masters and governors, the sense was of stepping back centuries into the cloisters of some ancient abbey. Brass candelabra with oil candles *hung over the oak pews,* beneath stencilled paintwork on the ceiling. Far beyond, in the perspective of the sanctuary, a massive stone altar *looked solid enough to withstand the* apocalypse, never mind a fire. And even though organs are in ecclesiastical terms relatively new inventions, the *sounds of the men's and boys' voices* accompanied by the extraordinary new 66-stop organ added to the feeling that something ancient had been brought, renewed, into the modern.

Before the clergy, servers, choir, headmaster and governors processed in, the Bishop of Newcastle, the Right Rev Alec Graham, opened our service with a prayer. *"Almighty God," he said,* "receive the work of our hands in the chapel, to be set apart for your worship, the building up of the living, and the *remembrance of the dead."* The *Bishop* of Rochester, Dr Michael Nazir-Ali, ordered the door open and, with his pastoral staff, marked the threshold *with the sign of the cross. During the* two-hour service, he preached the sermon, consecrated the altar, blessed the organ and the font, sprinkled the *Lady Chapel walls, the congregation,* sanctuary and altar with water from the font and presided at the eucharist.

"The whole people grows into a holy *temple in the Lord," we heard in the* lesson, before the gospel and sermon, in which Dr Nazir-Ali reflected on the large number of houses at Tonbridge, a *public school. "I know that these houses* are not mere buildings," he said. "They are communities of pupils and teachers who work and play together."

A *senior boy* thanked God "for the designers and draughtsmen, for the builders and craftsmen". The bishop, censing the altar, asked that "our prayer ascend as incense in your sight", before the altar was "dressed" by the clergy, and candles lit by servers in preparation for the communion that followed.

Outside, the day was unseasonally warm. The chapel had smelt only of new oak and incense, and we had spoken and sung in English and Latin; but as we left our hearts were full of thoughts of fire, and of those who enter into that school speaking in tongues of boys and who emerge as men.

The Chapel of St Augustine of Canterbury, Tonbridge School, High Street, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1JP. Tel: 01732 365555.

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ *A five star guide to the service* ★

HEADMASTER:
Martin Hammond.

ARCHITECTURE:
New chapel built from remains of original, incorporating as much as possible of the old fabric. ★★★★★

SERMON:
Dr Michael Nazir-Ali, Bishop of Rochester, told us the chapel "should be a place of generosity, a place where you learn the difference between what is true, good and beautiful, and what is false, evil and ugly". ★★★★

MUSIC:
Difficult to equal outside a cathedral, the *highlight being Jonathan Dove's Gloria,* composed for the dedication. ★★★★★

LITURGY:
Long but effective dedication. ★★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE:
Refreshments served for guests. ★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH:
A glimpse into a remarkable world. ★★★★

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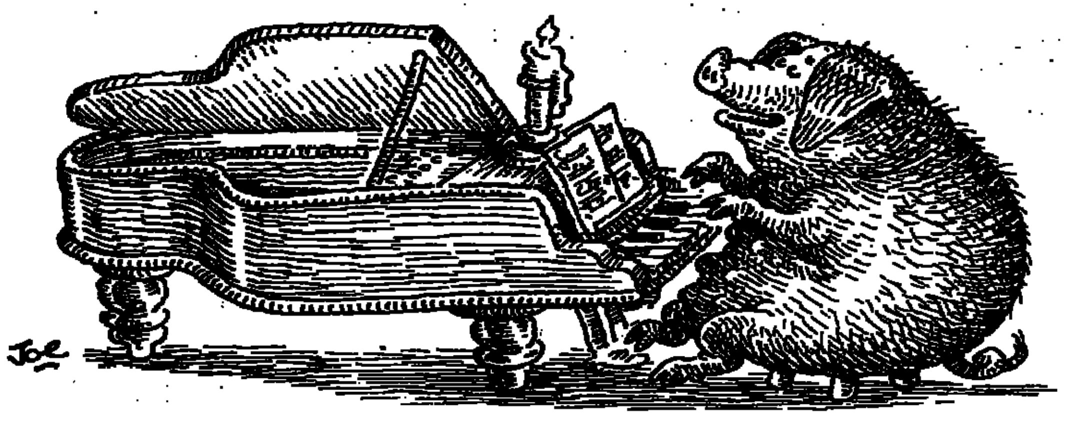
RSPB

Wanted: a Darcy for my thresher



FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

I suppose most red-blooded British males have, for the past six weeks, been going round imagining themselves to be Mr Darcy. But the more I have watched *Pride and Prejudice*, the more I have come to realise that my real role model is not the smouldering Mr Darcy, but Mrs Bennett.

It was of her that Jane Austen wrote: "She was a woman of mean understanding, little information and uncertain temper." I recognise myself.

My problem is that the end of my farming career is looming, and my large and troublesome brood must be disposed of. The sheep, pigs, cattle and, yes, even the machinery must be found good homes. They must marry well and not just for love, but for a decent bit of money too. Mrs. Bennett has all my sympathy.

Like her, I see most of my daughters as deserving. I am perhaps a bit more careful than her, though: the livestock are certainly not going to market, where bounders like Mr Wickham can go bidding for them and carry them off to an unsuitable fate. I shall inspect all their future homes before they leave the farm, and satisfy myself that they have made good matches.

However (and I would not wish her to hear me say this), our old sow Alice is now very slow on her feet, stone deaf, and at the end of her piglet-bearing days. She may be destined to stay on the shelf. She is as much a worry to me as Mary probably ended up to Mrs Bennett. At least if I end up with her still at home, she won't play the piano and quote scripture all day.

Sage, the British White cow is Jane: as good as she is beautiful, willing to lick the boots of any man who pays her the slightest attention. She will have no trouble finding her Mr Bingley.

The silly and flirtatious sheep are a different matter; they would run after any troop of licentious soldiery, especially if it had a bucket of sugar-beet nuts, and may well end up in the clutches of some ill-bred ram. Serve them right. But, I promise you, I shall deploy all available uncles with horse-whips to ensure that they are properly treated.

The next step is somehow to bolster my faith that it is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a threshing machine. Is there a Darcy or a Bingley out there (preferably with a fortune) who might care for a threshing machine and binder? Here I become more desperate and callous like my role model: frankly, Mr Collins can have either of them.

The trouble with all this aged farming gear is that, unlike the radiant Sage, or Bilberry the Red Poll with her big Jennifer Ehle eyes, the machinery's appeal is narrow. Actually, I cannot imagine anybody other than me who wants it. None of it is worthy of a space in a museum, yet neither is any of it so commonplace as to earn a home on the scrap-heap.

So may I describe the virtues of these two machines in the hope that love might blossom? I cannot speak for their utter fidelity: I do understand that falling in love with a bit of farming gear can be a heart-breaking business. But as Mr Bennett said: "Next to being married, a girl likes to be crossed in love a little now and then", and why should not the same be true of men?

And it does have a certain bloom. My Ransomes Threshing Machine is gloriously pink, freshly painted a couple of years ago a delicate shade not unlike a blushing maiden's cheeks.

I did love her then, truly I did. She is of magnificent stature, a noble lass who hums as she works to take the long straws of cut corn and turn them into straw and grain. A giving girl. At least she was, until her breakdown.

That was a day to remember. She started all sweetness and light, happily going about her daily tasks, sighing a little as was her way but always willing. Till there was a bang. Her innards collapsed. It was not just a physical breakdown, her spirit was crushed too.

She suffered endless hours under the surgeon's spanner, but it was down to me to instil in her the will to thresh once again. At the moment she's fine, but she certainly needs a Mr Darcy.

Things are more complicated than that, because the binder and the threshing machine really need a double wedding like the one the BBC gave Jane and Lizzie.

What use, says the binder, is my convoluted mechanism of cutter and knotter if the beloved thresher into which I wish my sheaves to be fed is no longer by my side? They are as close as tin and tin opener and to separate them would verge on cruelty.

You see my dilemma? It is beginning to get me down. It is enough to have to find one husband for each of my family, but almost impossible to find a bigamist who wants to wed two of my daughters.

As Mrs Bennett said: "Nobody is on my side, nobody takes part with me: I am cruelly used, nobody feels for my poor nerves."

Buy your own field and stop the developers

With more countryside being ruined, there is one solution that is foolproof

MARTIN BEDDALL

The man who helped to save his local field: Rob Jarman pictured on the land with Jane, his wife, and their children, Polly, Jack and Tom

Rob Jarman owns two fields on the edge of the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire: nine acres of wild pasture, casually grazed, free of pesticides and artificial fertiliser. He bought them two years ago to save them from the clutches of a farmer, "a big arable guy who's ripped out all his hedges".

Mr Jarman is no hippy. An environmental management officer for the National Trust, he is one of a growing band of new landowners, neither farmers nor developers, who are villagers buying fields simply to preserve them. Untampered pasture, they realise, is a dwindling resource.

According to the figures, they are arriving just in the nick of time. The Department of Environment's 1990 Countryside Survey detailed the extent to which herbicides and fertilisers have reduced the number of wildflowers; how continued hedgerow removal has deprived wildlife of food and shelter; and how deep ploughing is damaging trees and hedge roots, thus making them more susceptible to drought and disease.

Mr Jarman's alternative is no cheap hobby: his fields, one of which borders his converted farmhouse, cost him more than £12,000. But he has no regrets. "It's a constant joy. We've got three kids who are always out there." When the fields are not being grazed by a friend's sheep, he leaves all gates open: neighbours and ramblers are welcome to wander, picnic and camp. Every year he invites the villagers on to his land to celebrate the autumn equinox. With his background in land management, he is more equipped than most to care for land.

But it is the historical side to the land which most excites him. The fields are part of the Flaxley Abbey Estate, which was broken up in the 1950s. Their surface is corrugated, an indication that the old ridge and furrow technique of horse-drawn ploughing has been undisturbed by modern farming methods. The hedges are jostling with different trees and shrubs, in partiular the rare small-leafed lime. There are uncommon wildflowers, too: adder tongue's fern and corky-fruited waterdrop wort. He is less clear on the meaning of the fields' names: Glapons Hill draws a blank: the other, Cox's Field, he believes is named after a local farmer.

A deep tunnel running through the fields has a hazel and field-maple canopy. This, Mr Jarman says, used to be a packhorse route from the river to the abbey, along which monks would lead horses laden with iron ore: the abbey had its own smelting works. "It's an amazing feature. It's got very deep sides, worn down by 100 years of packhorses. The whole place is a time capsule, which now will be preserved," he says.

But intensive agriculture is not the only bogy to the nation's ancient meadows: development, too, poses an increasingly insistent threat.

It was to counter such a threat that, 12 years ago, villagers banded together in Painswick, Gloucestershire, so untouched by development that it boasts the nickname Queen of the Cotswolds. A three-acre field, named Hambutts Field after the butts at which medieval archers would practise their marksmanship, was owned by a property developer. After his application to build 25 houses was turned down, a group of neighbours asked him to sell.

Dr Richard Jarrett, one of the five who put up the required £10,000, remembers: "The development would have been out of character entirely. Painswick is part of the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Hambutts Field, which has the Cotswold Way running straight through it, is also right in the centre of the village. Fortunately, the developer was amenable and we agreed a reasonable price: rather more than its agricultural value, but still a fraction of the development value."

Because their aim was to preserve and not to own the land, Dr Jarrett and the others gave it to the Open Spaces Society: any change of use now has to be agreed by an Act of Parliament. Dr Jarrett and his neighbours have formed a committee to run the field.

It has, he says, been "a great success. It's the nearest field to the centre of the village and everyone has open access. We've put nice seats in it and a standing water pipe for people to drink from. We've cordoned off one corner so that tents can be pitched there. On any evening in the summer we might have two or three tents belonging to people walkin the Cotswold Way. So far we've had backpackers from Holland, Germany, France, Italy, the United States and Australia."

As befits a communal field, there are no restrictions on dogs: it is, in fact, the only place in the village where dogs are allowed to exercise. And, like Mr Jarman's meadows, there are interesting trees and wild animals. Dr Jarrett says: "We've got two 300-year-old ash trees and one 400-year-old hedge. We keep the ivy in the trees for bats and birds to nest in and don't allow any pesticides. There is an amazing number of butterflies and wildflowers."

Buying a field in this way is not always straightforward, says Sue Clifford, of Common Ground, the environmental charity. "There are endless possibilities. Finding out who owns the land can be hard enough, whether its freehold or leasehold. And then how to own it? This could be individually, as a parish council, a local trust or a charity."

Yet despite the obstacles, she sees more and more people taking this path: only last month a group of villagers in Dorchester, near Oxford, clubbed together to buy a 1,000-year old water meadow that was threatened by development. "There are no figures, but increasingly, the more we look, the more we find people doing just this. People now take great offence at the way agriculture is perpetrated. There's a strong and growing counter-culture of people behaving more socially together and buying land together. People's self-confidence and willingness to be creative is growing."

EDWARD MARRIOTT

- *Common Ground, Seven Dials Warehouse, 44 Earlham Street, London WC2H 9LA (0171-379 3109). Open Spaces Society, 25a Ball Street, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 2BA (01491 573535).*

- ***Reading:*** *The pamphlet "Ground Rules: a guide to some of the legal aspects of community land ownership and management", is published by Rural Action, Somerford Court, Somerford Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1TW, £5.* A History of English Field Names, *by John Field (Longman, 1993).* The History of the Countryside, *by Oliver Rackham (Weidenfield & Nicolson, 1995).* A Year in the Life of a Field, *by Michael Allaby (David & Charles, 1981).*

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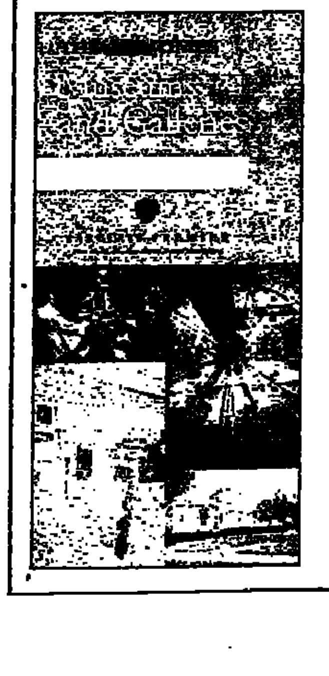

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Feather Report

A lively little auk

GREAT auks are extinct, but the little auk lives on. It is a very little auk indeed, about eight inches tall when standing on a clifftop, and it lives mainly within the Arctic Circle. It has a stubby beak that gives it a face like a frog, and it nests in rock fissures that have been cracked open by the frost.

The bird feeds on plankton around the pack ice, and even in winter only a few come very far south.

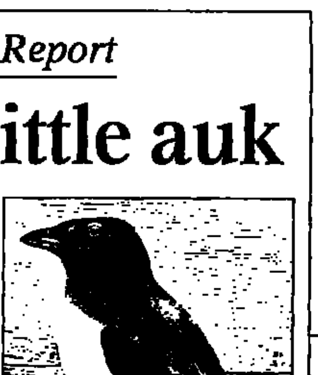
In the first half of November, however, small flocks of little auks do pass along the east coast of Britain, though well out to sea. They are seen by the hardened coastal watchers, who will stand all day looking out to sea, armed with powerful telescopes.

As the little auks speed over the waves, they look more like starlings than seabirds, and they soon pass out of sight.

It is only when there are fierce storm winds at sea that they are found inland in this country, and then they are usually dead. In February 1983, about 1,200 corpses of little auks were found on the east side of England.

However, in the high Arctic they are thriving. They wheel in flocks round their breeding sites like swarms of insects.

The great auks of Greenland and Newfoundland died out in 1844, the victims of fishermen who ate them and their eggs, until there were none left. But there may still be as many as 30 million little auks in the world. Some ornithologists think that little auks are the most abundant seabird. So their chances look a little brighter than those of their great cousins.


Little auks fly past the coast

DERWENT MAY

- **What's about:** *Birders — meadow pipits on lowland fields; Twitchers — American golden plover at Fishmoor reservoir, Blackburn, Lancashire; long-billed dowitcher at Tophill Low nature reserve, Humberside. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, and 50p a minute at all other times*

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Position, rather than quantity of plants, counts when planning a border, says **Stephen Anderton**

Beware of planting too close for comfort

Everyone does it. We all plant too close, especially tyro gardeners. Even those with years of experience can still find they have not given plants enough room to develop. Some plants must go to make room for the others.

Ten years down the line from the first planting there are agonising decisions to be made. A little planning can lessen the agonies.

Faced with a new, empty border, the tendency is to want to see the space filled up, and there is great virtue in using bold blocks of shrubs and herbaceous plants to make a quick impact.

But gardens are not motorway embankments, and these groups of shrubs should not stay there for ever. In five years, perhaps only one plant in each group of three or five will remain. The clever part is to see that one at least in each group is in the right place. It is too easy to find that none is in the right place and that five years' development time has been wasted. I like to plant the intended survivor first, in the centre of its group. It should be the best plant, with the straightest stem if that matters, and the best rootball.

If that has room to develop without compromising the intended survivor of the next group as it develops, all will be well. The rest of the group can be placed around it, to grow on for a few years until the border is established and it is their turn to be sacrificed.

Sacrificing healthy plants does not come easily, but it has to be done. Once the survivor begins to have its skirts pushed by the rest of the group, the others must be pruned to give it light for a few years, and then removed.

This applies especially to evergreens. It is no use waiting until a surviving holly or cypress has had its lower branches shaded to death by its neighbours, only to reveal its shabby underpinnings. The health and looks of the survivor must always take priority. So much depends on the final effect you have in mind. Sometimes a trio of shrubs can usefully remain for ever. It might be three of the purple-leaved *Cotinus coggygria*, cut back every spring to make a cloud of glowing purple foliage as a contrast for flowers in front, or it might be three of the low *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus* var. *repens* planted a yard apart to give one huge blue dome 8ft across.

Or, it might be evergreens, such as a golden holly, intended to be clipped as a large block, and planted as a trio simply for speed of effect. Such blocks of shrubs give weight to a border, and allow you to mix and match a greater number of herbaceous plants around them, without it looking spotty.

JERRY HARPUR

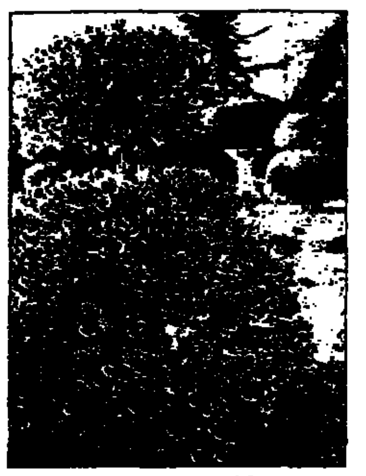
Evergreens, like these clipped box domes, need room to grow

Small trees on a trunk in a border ask to be given their own space and independence, although a generously spaced trio of trunks bearing tight crowns can occasionally make a striking moment, especially if they are as showy as the white-barked birches or the golden *Robinia* 'Frisia'.

Shrubs that have great structural dignity and poise, such as Japanese maples or some of the dwarf pines, can only look inhibited when pressed into a tight group. They are better planted from the start, where their satisfactory forms can be appreciated as individuals. A hinterland of low herbaceous plants serves them best.

But how do you decide how much space to give anything? By not assuming that what the label says is true. Nursery labels have the habit of stating the size that a plant will be in ten years, as if by then you will have moved house and the problem will be someone else's.

Some labels give a time scale, others not. But if a plant has reached only a third of its ultimate height in ten years, you need to know. Bigger might be a problem. The answer is to look up a tree or shrub in that useful book, *Hillier's Manual of Trees and Shrubs* (David & Charles, £14.99), where you will find a true picture of what to expect.



Golden holly: ideal in trios

The creeping sin of mis-stating the ultimate sizes on labels is not that trees will be too big, but that they will be too small. Gardeners will all err on the small side.

I have a horror of future suburbia in which every tree in every garden is a dinky ornamental, as on the worst golf courses: all rowans and cherries. The charm of Victorian and Edwardian suburbs, of course, is that there are at least some forest trees in gardens — limes, oaks, sycamores, horsechestnuts and yew.

If those of us with fair-sized gardens all planted just one big deciduous tree, even if the next owner cut it down, it would at least give future suburbia the possibility of a less squat, cosy skyline.

Filling a new mixed border with a few bold groups of shrubs can be expensive.

If cheapness matters, the way to fill a border is to plant the key shrubs and small trees singly or with the odd trio, at generous distances apart, buying as large a size as you can afford. Then the remaining areas can be filled with big groups of strong herbaceous plants, which can be divided in the second season to make a much denser planting.

Visit a few charity plant sales, and mop up some cheap hardy geraniums, kniphofias, *Tradescantia andersoniana*, euphorbias, rudbeckias, bergenias and hostas. Make a colour wash around the structural bones of the garden.

WEEKEND TIPS

- *Plant fruit trees this month, to give them maximum time to establish before spring.*
- *Evergreens planted last month should be watched for signs of wind disturbance, and firmed in if necessary.*
- *Pot up from the garden a few double or coloured primroses for Christmas display.*
- *Potted hydrangeas that have been plunged in the garden should be brought indoors, but kept dry for a little longer.*
- *Complete planting tulips.*

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q **I want to replant an established 8ft-tall holly tree in another garden. When is the best time to make the move?** — *G. Strang, Edinburgh.*

A Never. It is too late to move an eight-footer. Established hollies hate being disturbed. Even ones half that size will, on being moved with a reasonably intact rootball, sulk or even drop their leaves. And, should they recover, will take years to get going vigorously again. I suggest you buy another; perhaps a 6-7ft container-grown holly, though the choice of varieties is limited. Expect to pay £50 or more. You will be buying that invaluable asset: time.

Q **How can I persuade my bed of yuccas that it is autumn, not spring? They have produced 11 spikes of bloom and are just coming into flower. Should I cut these off, or let them take their chance? Does the frost affect them?** — *Mrs J. Sweet, Stoke Gifford, Gloucestershire.*

A *Yucca gloriosa* is naturally a late flowerer. From it, great leathery rosettes of spiky leaves shoot up 6-7ft panicles of creamy white flowers. A hot summer, such as the past one, induces flower, but the extreme drought has held them back until even later. If only frost were not on the way they would be fine, but it will spoil the flowers. Most of our best yuccas come from Italy, where the climate is more suited to their needs. All you can do is to enjoy them until the frost. Cut them off next spring. You may find that the flowering crowns then die back, but young offshoots will arise. You can, if you wish, cut away the entire flowered crown next summer, or leave it to get trunky and woody, as you prefer. If you have enjoyed seeing your yuccas flower and want to do better, either plant one in a position where reflected heat, perhaps from a wall, will make it flower at a sensible time even in a normal year, or plant *Yucca filamentosa*, which flowers in July and August at 4ft.

Q **I would like to grow a flowering climbing plant in a pot on a south-facing balcony 25ft above the ground. It is intended to soften the severe lines of a birdbox, which sits 5ft above the balcony. The balcony can be windy at times.** — V. Forshaw, Southfields, London SW19.

A Long-term climbers in pots are never very successful. How do you repot them once they have wound themselves around the balcony? Do you over-pot them at the start and risk them damping off? I would be inclined to go for annual climbers, which avoid these problems. If it is a windy spot, plant them out fairly late, so that they are not checked by cold winds. Morning glories, such as *Ipomoea* 'Heavenly Blue', do well in London window boxes, and you could mix them with the black-eyed Susan *Thunbergia alata*. To give them something to climb up at first, add a plant of the grey, woolly leaved *Helichrysum petiolatum*.

● *Readers wishing to have gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.*

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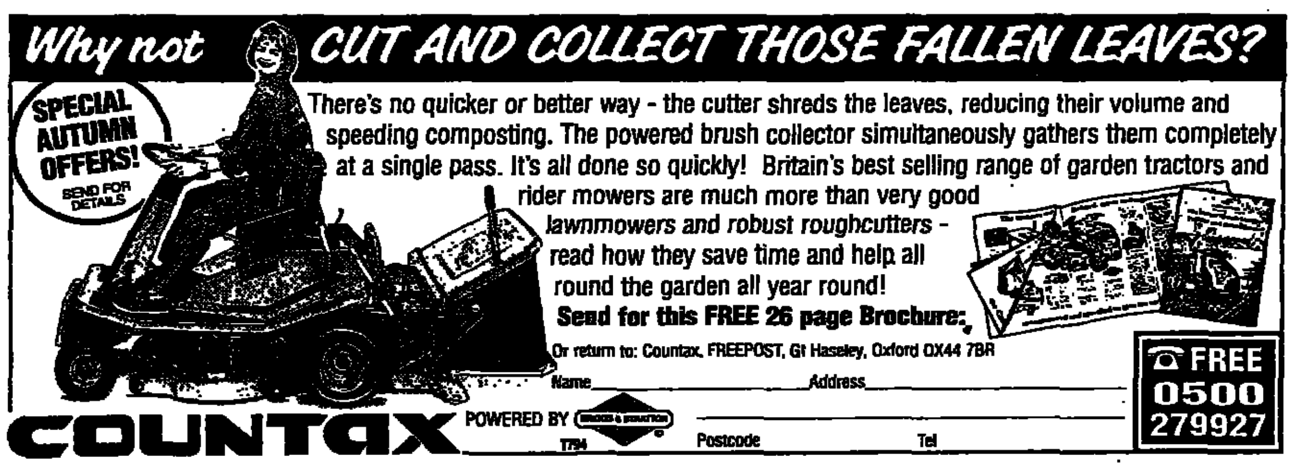

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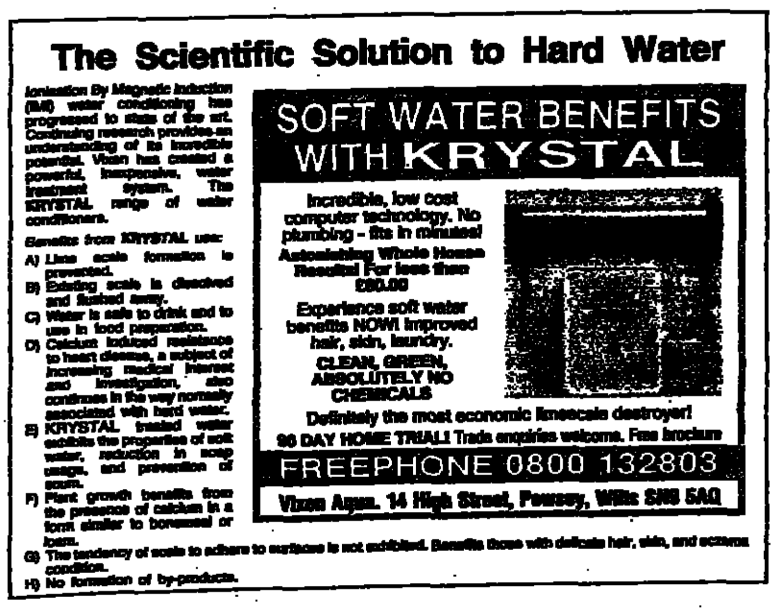

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It's the real thing in design

The man with the bottle to collect what most consider an everyday object

JILL ALLEN

Lawrence Zeegen, a lecturer at the Camberwell College of Art, collects most design classics but prizes the Coke bottle above all

It was no accident that Andy Warhol chose the Coca-Cola bottle and the Campbell's soup tin to express the repetition in mass manufacture. Technology meant that such well-designed objects could be repeated *ad nauseam*. Warhol's artistic method was a reflection of this: the screen-printing merely equivalent to the production line, the output no more exclusive than what it represented.

However, the Coca-Cola bottle, unlike many other products, benefits from mass production. Its deceptively simple contours and ridges are definite and subtle enough to make it withstand constant global attention.

Recognising the potency of its trademark, Coca-Cola has gone to great lengths to protect the bottle from imitation. It was first patented in 1915, but by 1937 the patent was due to expire and existing laws meant that a new patent could not be issued. The company overcame this by applying for a "design patent", which meant that it could not be imitated for another 14 years. In 1960, the company eventually persuaded the US Patent Office to grant an indefinite trademark on the bottle, a rare happening in commercial packaging.

Now this icon of American consumerism has become an object of desire for collectors. Lawrence Zeegen, 31, collects most design classics but prizes the Coke bottle above all. As a freelance illustrator and a lecturer in graphic design at the Camberwell College of Art in South London, he regards the Coke bottle as a perfect design, and says nothing can match it.

He has about 50 Coke bottles from around the world. . Until recently, his collection lined the kitchen units at his home, but he and his wife Lesley felt they "were getting a bit too much", so the bottles have been consigned to the soulless anonymity of a large cardboard box.

Glass Coke bottles are hard to find in Britain, though some restaurants and pubs still serve Coca-Cola in the original bottles. "Those plastic bottles and cans don't do the trick at all," Mr Zeegen says. "The great thing about buying a glass one is that you are buying a slice of American culture.

"The company knows how important the container is to its image: every can of Coke now has a picture of the bottle on it."

Mr Zeegen has examples from the United States, Thailand, Japan, Korea, China, various European countries and the former Soviet Union. Most are identical, save for the lettering on bottles from Thailand, Japan and China. Because China does not have a phonetic alphabet, the literal translation on its bottles is "Happy Mouth".

The most Mr Zeegen has ever paid for a bottle is $10, for an American example from the 1950s, though prices for some early bottles can run into hundreds of dollars.

The bottle has undergone minor changes since it was created in 1915. Over the years, the contour has tapered slightly and the glass has acquired a green tinge, known as "Georgia Green". Generally, the fatter and whiter the bottle, the older it is.

Preferring not to become "too anoraky" about his pursuit, Mr Zeegen buys "pieces" as anybody else would, and not by trawling through memorabilia shops. Friends help to swell the collection, but most find themselves too thirsty en route to obey his dictum that the bottles should remain full.

His purchases have weighed down many a suitcase on his travels, and he was particularly upset when he dropped a litre-bottle at Malta airport. At least he had the opportunity to confirm one of the company's original design specifications that "the bottle should be recognisable even when broken".

Today Mr Zeegen is involving his students at Camberwell in the "Coca-Cola Olympic Salute to Folk Art" competition (see right). About 50 of them have shown interest in entering designs which rework the Coke bottle to reflect some form of British heritage. The winning designs from participating countries will be shown at next year's Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia.

"I've asked my students to tackle it from an aesthetic point of view," Mr Zeegen says, "and to look at the project from a conceptual angle."

So what does he expect his students will come up with? "I think the image of the Coke bottle ties in with British culture of the 1950s and 1960s," he says. "It's part of that American invasion of pop culture. But there are lots of images of London in the 1960s as an encapsulation of Britain then, Swinging Soho and so on, and I can see these being used."

Mr Zeegen says the competition is beneficial to students because it gives them the chance to produce something specific in a short time — five weeks — which will be good experience for them.

Although the Coke bottle is considered an icon of capitalism, a vile totem of Western imperialism to some, Mr Zeegen has had no political-correctness problems with the student project. "I don't think art students are as politically active as they were 20 years ago," he says. "Besides, they are too tempted by the prize money and the potential exposure for the winner."

GUY WALTERS

THE TIMES/COCA-COLA COMPETITION

Win a trip for two to the Olympics

READERS of *The Times* are invited to create a version of the Coca-Cola contour bottle which reflects the spirit of their local community.

The designer of the winning entry will receive a five-night trip for two to the Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia, next July, plus £5,000, from Coca-Cola.

The winning design will also be produced by Coca-Cola to form part of the exhibition "Coco-Cola Olympic Salute to Folk Art" at the Games. Five runners-up will each receive £1,000.

HOW TO ENTER

Entries must be supplied as flat artwork, either as photographs or illustrations. Photographic submissions (you may want to produce your piece and photograph it for entry) must not exceed 16in x 12in, and illustrations must not exceed A2 size. Your work should be easily recognised as a "Coca-Cola" contour bottle, with its defining features (shape, flutes and ridges). Please use the design specifications detailed in the competition leaflet, available from Lynne Franks PR (see below). Incorporation of the Coca-Cola logo is optional.

All entries must be received at Lynne Franks PR, PO Box 4035, London W9 32W by the closing date of December 15, 1995, clearly marked "Coca-Cola Olympic Salute to Folk Art", with a sheet of paper giving a) your name, b) your permanent address and telephone number, c) date of birth, and d) college and course if applicable.

Works should be created, decorated or painted with local materials, using traditional techniques and featuring images that are indigenous to or symbolic of your community to represent Great Britain at the Olympic Games. A brief description of the work explaining its inspiration and cultural context should be attached to your entry.

All materials that would be used if your piece was produced in 3D must be clearly identified. Materials may be wood, marble, straw, textile material, shatter-proof forms of glass, or any material sturdy enough to withstand the journey to Atlanta, if selected.

All designs must be the original creation of the entrant, carried out specifically for this competition.

This competition is open to people resident in Great Britain and the Isle of Man, excluding employees of Coca-Cola Great Britain and Ireland, CCSB, their families, agents or anyone directly connected with this competition.

Entries will be judged by Stephen Bayley, David Driver, head of design at *The Times*, and a representative of Coca-Cola. The judges' decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Closing date for entries is December 15, 1995.

The winning design will be exhibited in London early next year.

Folksy look in wood by the American artist Howard Finster

Prize winners agree to allow the use of their names, photographs and winning contour bottle design for publicity, advertising, promotional and merchandising activities in connection with this competition.

By entering the competition, entrants agree to assign copyright and ownership of entries to the Coca-Cola company.

All entrants will be deemed to have accepted and be bound by the rules.

Leaflets with the full list of competition rules are available by sending an SAE to Lynne Franks PR, clearly marked "Coca-Cola Olympic Salute to Folk Art — Rules", or by calling *The Times* on 0171-782 7155.

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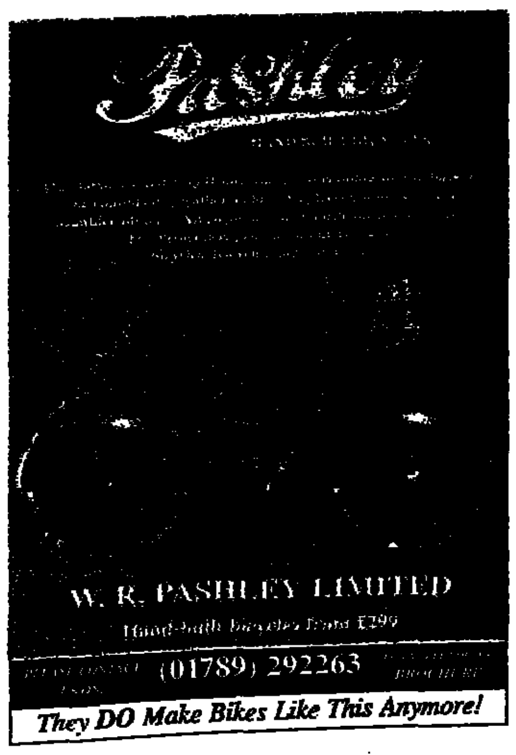
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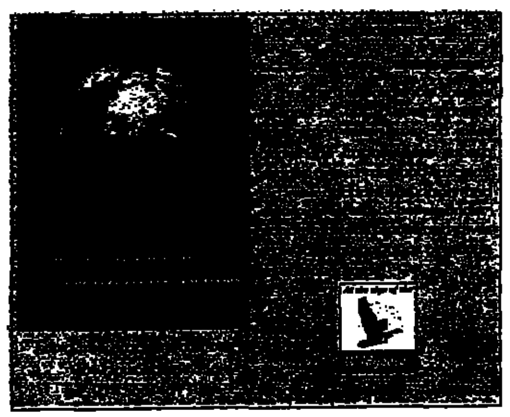

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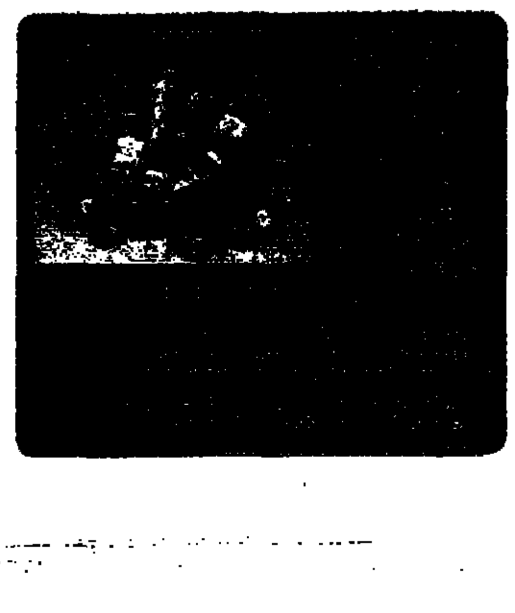

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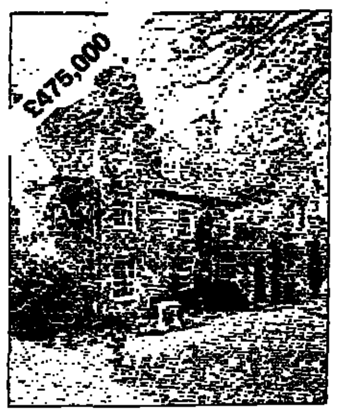

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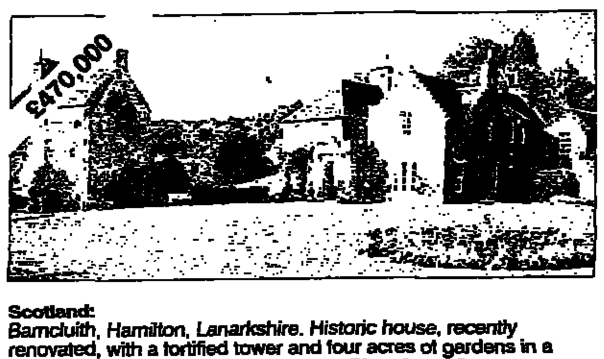

Scotland:
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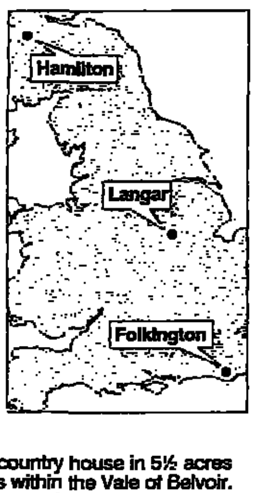

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CHERYL TAYLOR

The Scots are building new castles, combining tradition with double glazing and central heating

Tower blocks with a difference

Ally Black and his family should be living in a Scottish castle this time next year. Only the small matter of it being built precludes them from moving in now.

Mr Black already owns the 30-acre site where the three-storey edifice will stand and the plans have been approved by Borders Regional Council. The castle will be built in the tradition of the Scottish tower house. These buildings, though not constructed on the scale of Edinburgh or Stirling castles, are generally known in Scotland as castles.

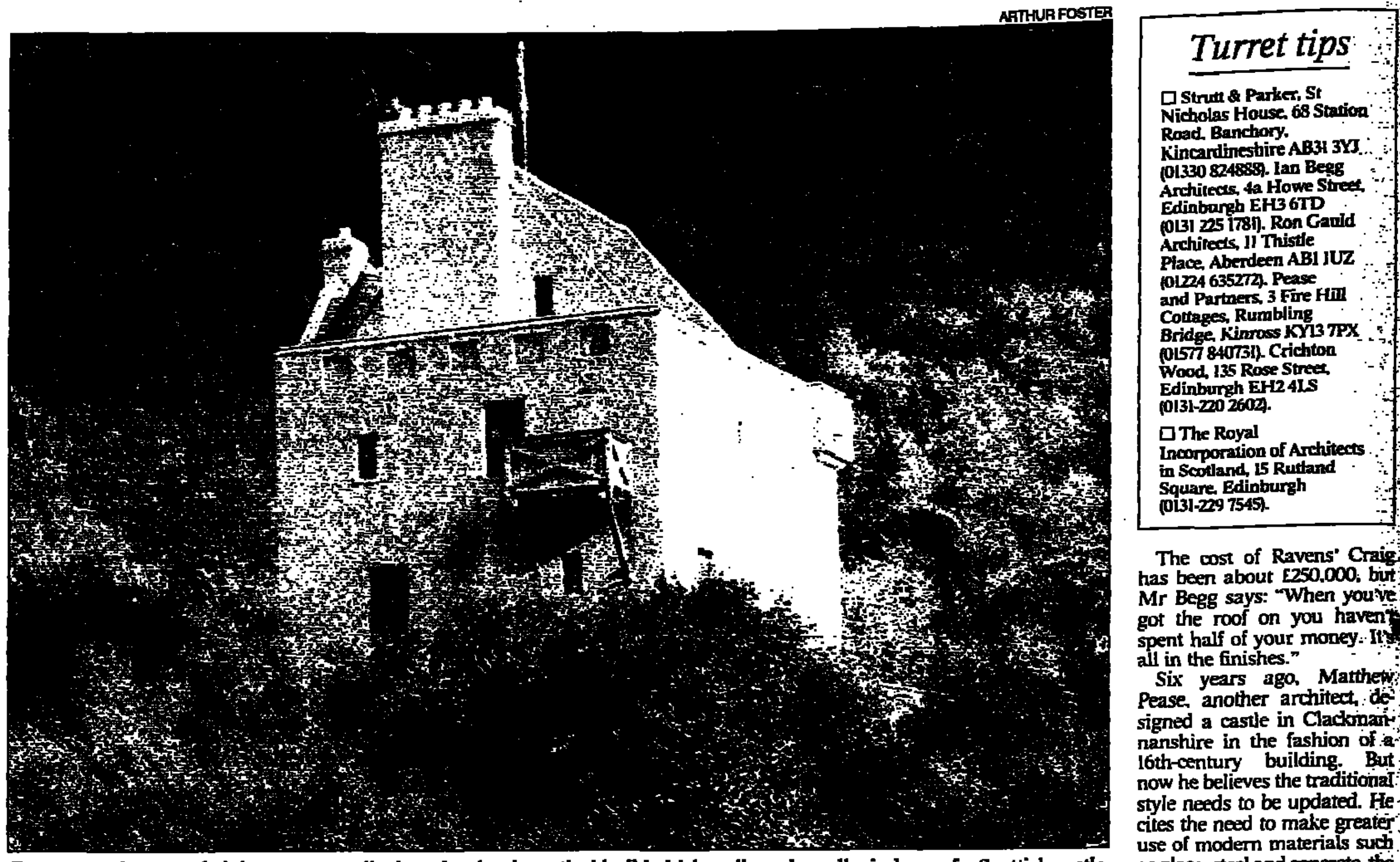
The castle has been designed by Crichton Wood, who has made a study of more than 400 Scottish castles. Mr Wood has given a late 20th-century stamp to traditional tower-house castle features such as vertical build, thick walls, predominance of wall space over windows, steeply pitched slate roofs and turrets with conical roofs.

The modern touches include two glass turrets, and Mr Black's castle will not be built of traditional stone, but concrete blocks harled (rendered) in cement and lime. Where possible, steel and brass will be used for details around the doors and windows. The castle will have a steel chimney, central heating, double glazing and proper insulation.

The tradition of building vertically is deeply ingrained in Scottish architecture: from tenements to castles. Through the centuries defensive considerations have given way to aesthetic ones.

Borders council's assistant director of planning, Ian Borthwick, says the quality of both design and site convinced councillors of its merit. He says: "Normally we wouldn't approve a castle like this just on any site but there used to be a mansion close by and the new building will stand in a collection of trees on a knoll, overlooking a small loch."

ARTHUR FOSTER



Ravens' Craig, started eight years ago, displays the classic vertical build, thick walls and small windows of a Scottish castle

Mr Black says: "I am a designer and manufacturer of reproduction furniture so I don't always see that old things are better than new." For about £120,000-£140,000 he will get what he calls the shell of the building, incorporating three bedrooms, lounge, dining room, library, circular staircase, kitchen, utility room, two bathrooms and double garage. He will fit the interiors himself, including oak or walnut floors, at a cost of £30,000-£40,000.

Building new castles in Scotland is unusual but not unknown. Strutt & Parker, the agent, is offering Strathieburn Castle, built eight years ago 12 miles from Aberdeen, for sale for more than £380,000. They say that the castle was the first to be constructed on Royal Deeside since Balmoral was built for Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in the 1850s. Architect Ron Gauld, who designed it for himself, says he wanted to recycle materials such as granite, slates, timber and stone flags salvaged from a dozen buildings around Aberdeen.

Strathieburn has a great hall, dining room, large sitting room/kitchen, four bedrooms, three of them *en suite*, a laundry and the potential for another three bedrooms. The views along the valley of Royal Deeside to the Grampian mountains beyond are terrific.

While Strathieburn harks back to the look of a 16th-century castle, the four-storey Ravens' Craig, near Plockton, on the west coast of Scotland, has a more contemporary feel. Architect Ian Begg, who designed it, started work in 1987 and moved in five years ago.

The building is an imposing structure, which has a 16ft x 23ft hall, used as a sitting room, occupying most of the first floor, a lift shaft, underground heating on all floors except the top, four bedrooms, a games and work room and good use of the 3ft space between inside and outside walls. Here can be found cupboards, a computer room, drinks cabinet, lavatory, quiet room and one flight of stairs. The main staircase extends to the first floor and then continues up through a turret. One of the house rules is not to go up the steps empty-handed.

In the spandrels, the space above the vaulted roof over the ground floor kitchen-living room, are two 400-gallon water tanks, heated overnight using off-peak electricity.

The cost of Ravens' Craig has been about £250,000, but Mr Begg says: "When you've got the roof on you haven't spent half of your money. It's all in the finishes."

Six years ago, Matthew Pease, another architect, designed a castle in Clackmannanshire in the fashion of a 16th-century building. But now he believes the traditional style needs to be updated. He cites the need to make greater use of modern materials such as glass, steel and concrete, the use of quicker construction techniques and the need to get more light into castles than is allowed through the traditional small windows. Mr Pease says: "The advantages of building new is that the castles are much warmer, have good finishes and all modern conveniences."

Certainly, this is what Ally Black envisages in his yet-to-be-built castle in the Scottish Borders. "I like to try different things and I've got a young enthusiast who's dying to be given licence to do something different. I think we're both quite brave," he says.

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

Turret tips

☐ **Strutt & Parker, St Nicholas House, 68 Station Road, Banchory, Kincardineshire AB31 3YJ (01330 824888). Ian Begg Architects, 4a Howe Street, Edinburgh EH3 6TD (0131 225 1781). Ron Gauld Architects, 11 Thistle Place, Aberdeen AB1 1UZ (01224 635272). Pease and Partners, 3 Fire Hill Cottages, Rumbling Bridge, Kinross KY13 7PX (01577 840731). Crichton Wood, 135 Rose Street, Edinburgh EH2 4LS (0131-220 2602).**

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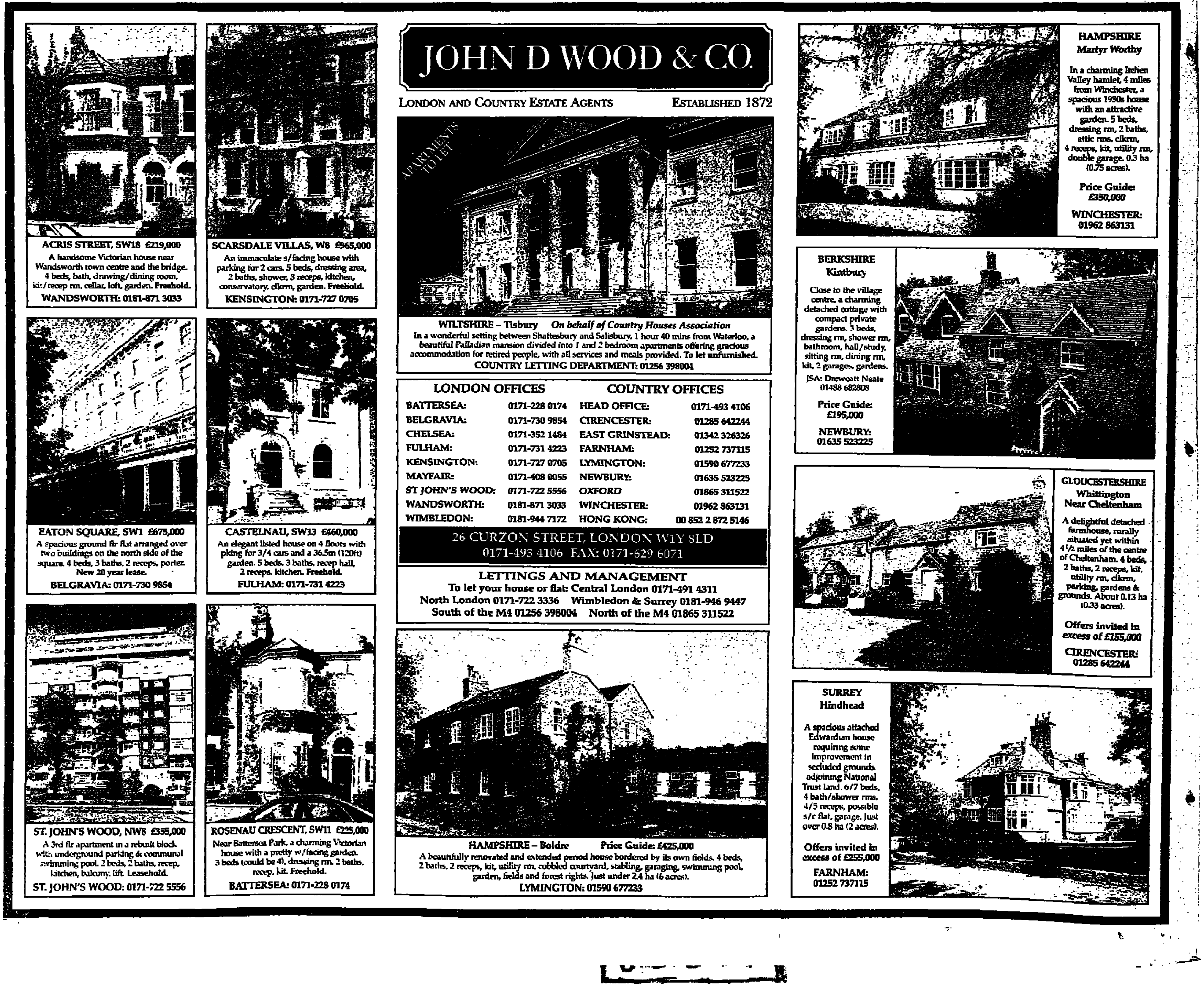

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REPOSSESSIONS

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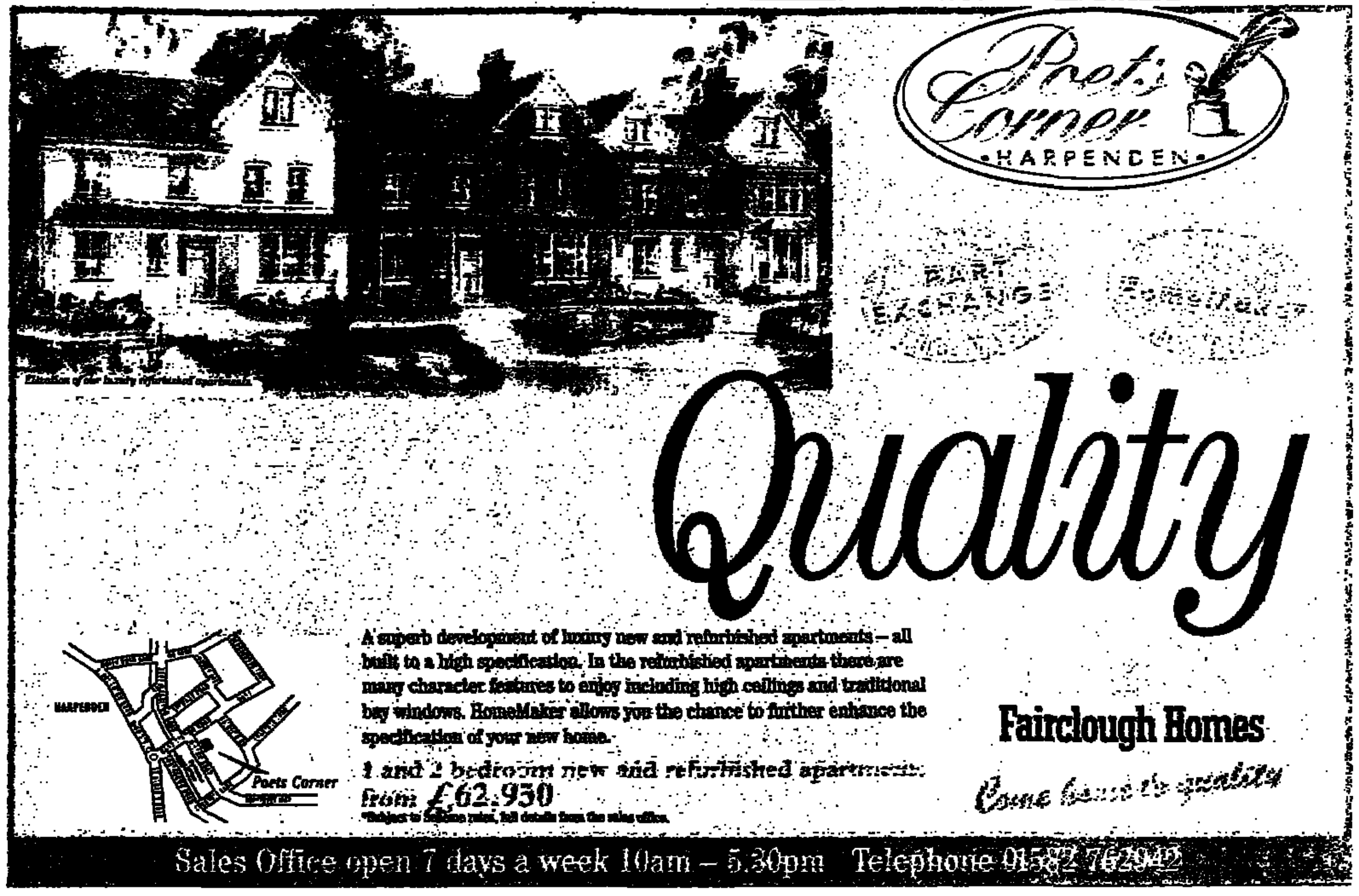

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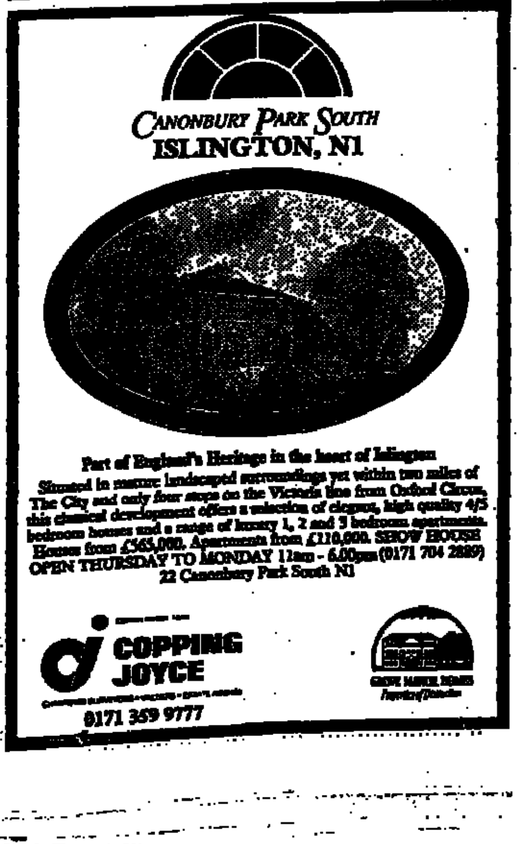

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COPPING JOYCE
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More builders now offer part-exchange deals, breaking the property chain by buying clients' homes in back-to-back sales

GUY NEWMAN/APEX

Anne and Jim Castle part-exchanged their house in Derby for a Barratt home in Taunton

A trade-in on the house

Within three weeks of finding a new home, John Griffin had bought it and moved in. He was able to complete this relatively pain-free move because he bought a £190,000 four-bedroom house in a small, new Wates development at Bracknell, Berkshire, and took advantage of the company's part-exchange scheme.

Wates bought his three-bedroom detached 1930s home after two previous sales had fallen through, one for £115,000 and then for £107,000. Wates paid him £97,000.

"My house had been on the market for six months," said Mr Griffin. "The part-exchange made things much simpler."

More builders, from smaller firms like Galliford Homes to Wimpey, are offering part-exchange deals as chain-breakers for those trading up in a difficult market. Such deals in Wimpey's southern region have increased from 30 per cent of sales to 40 per cent since January this year.

"Owners are not confident that their homes will sell, so they come straight to us," says regional director Stephen Hinson. "Or they might have had their house on the market for a while. We aim for a quick sale so that the moves take place back to back.

"We'll take on clients' houses that are less than 70 per cent of the value of the house we're selling, if there are no structural or other problems. It's our job to shift it."

But if vendors are having trouble selling, how does Wimpey do it?

They sometimes offer more for a part-exchange house than they can sell it for, but allow for this in the price paid for the new house. "If there was a discount negotiable on our new house we will sometimes not allow it if we take a property in part-exchange. We price the buyer's original house correctly, put a board up and advertise the property. People's expectations of house values are often too high," says Mr Hinson. "We might also release a chain by buying a cheaper property log-jammed farther down. The problem with selling a house is that we need the owners, who have already sold it to us, to maintain enthusiasm and show prospective buyers around, so we offer them an incentive, say £200, for their co-operation in getting back-to-back moves."

Barratt has offered part-exchanges for 20 years, and about 50 per cent of their 6,000-plus sales a year are now through this scheme. It is a boon to people relocating, as in the case of Anne Castle, who moved from Derby to Taunton when her husband got a new job in Glastonbury, Somerset.

"We put our house in Derby on the market at £99,000 in June and had three valuations ranging from £90,000 to £109,000. But offers were around the £90,000 mark which seemed low," says Mrs Castle. "We intended to buy an older property, but when our house hadn't sold by August, I didn't relish staying in Derby with the children when Jim started work. We heard about part-exchange, asked Barratt where their nearest site to Glastonbury was, and bought one of their four-bedroom detached houses in Taunton for £108,000.

"They valued our Derby house at £87,500, and in retrospect we could see that was the true market value.

"Things happened quickly and we moved in the October half-term. The part-exchange swung it for us. As it happens, Barratt offered me a part-time job in their sales office — it was a pretty good deal, a new house and a job."

The Fletcher family moved into the Castles' three-bedroom detached house in Mickleover, Derby, the day they moved out. "We saw the house advertised in the local paper. We had already viewed it and liked it, but it was £99,000 and we had not sold our house," says Mr Fletcher. "Barratt offered to take our smaller, three-bedroom modern house in part-exchange, and because they dropped the price of the Fletchers' house we were able to reduce ours. We'd tried to sell for two and a half years but, on the weekend we agreed to buy from Barratts, we sold to a first-time buyer and moved six weeks later."

Builders put conditions on part-exchange deals. A property is valued by two or three independent valuers and its actual value taken as being somewhere between the top and bottom valuations; some builders, including Wimpey in certain circumstances (although not Barratt) then offer only 95 per cent of this sum. Smaller builders can only consider properties within a few miles of their office, and most firms have an age limit — Barratt are reluctant to take pre-1919 properties — and the exchange house must usually be worth less than 80 per cent of the new one.

"We aim to make house-buying as easy as buying a new car," says David Pretty, Barratt southern chairman. "Our record is eight days from offer to move. Most people want to move within four to six weeks, but their biggest problem is selling their existing home.

"We buy in at a competitive price and sell at a competitive price. We don't make a profit.

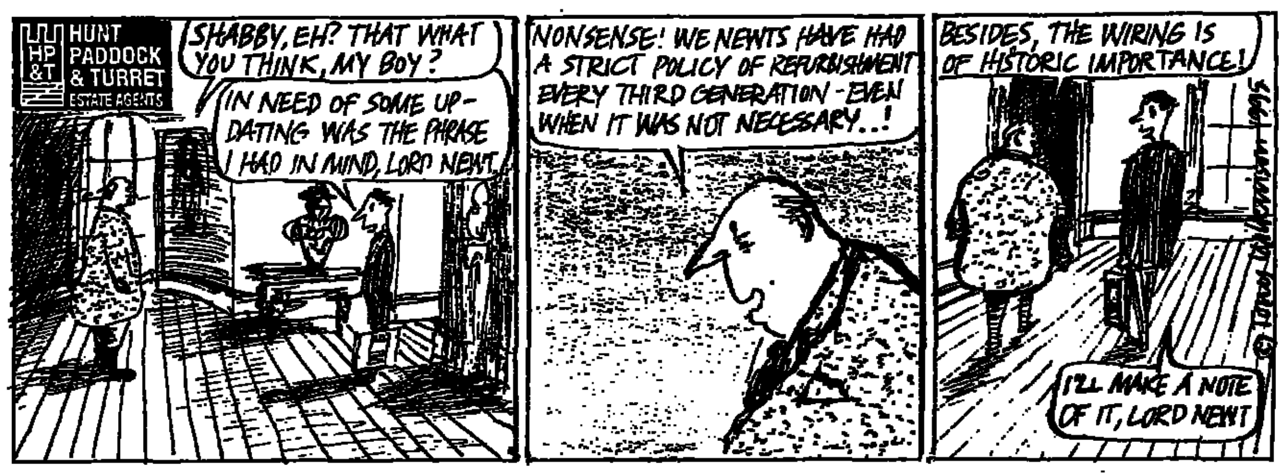
"We do turn houses down, for example if there are ten for sale in one street, if there are structural problems or if a house has fallen into disrepair — though we'll sometimes give a room a lick of paint, or tidy a garden at our expense, to help a sale."

CHRISTINE WEBB

● *Wimpey (0181-846 2466); Barratt (0345 626364); Galliford Homes (01737 353411); Wates Built Homes (0181-764 5000).*

DAYMARKE

Patricia and Michael Fletcher bought the Castles' home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£225,000.
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Buying from charity catalogues eases the conscience and beats the crowds

Shopping by the book for Christmas presents

H. ALCOCK

Save the Children's Golden Porker bookends (£19.99) are sturdy enough to support several volumes

I love the bustling atmosphere of the streets and shops in the run-up to Christmas — but only if I'm not still frantically looking for the perfect, but elusive, present as Christmas Eve approaches. Shopping from charity catalogues has the twin advantages of avoiding the crowds and giving a sense of doing some good in a relentlessly commercial season. I have examined the charity gifts I would consider buying for friends and family to make sure that they are up to scratch.

The National Trust catalogue is one of the best for elegant presents. The Trust's centenary is celebrated with its Robert Adam-inspired Wedgwood Collection mug (£19.95), round-lid box (£35.95) and rectangular trinket tray (£37.95), all in pale yellow, rich blue and 22-carat gold. A traditional bagatelle board (30½in x 15½in) costs £62.50; and the oak (yes, it really is wood) personal desk organiser is £41.50. The simple but pretty Shell Gift Box (£9.95), containing bath salts, flannel and shell-shaped soap in a shell-decorated box, is perfect for feminine but not frilly friends.

The best source for fashion-conscious and globally aware friends and relations is in the Tribale catalogue from Survival. Although small, everything in it is attractive and of good quality. Any stylish teenager would be happy to carry the lunch box (£9.95) made from tough clear plastic and decorated with black Anasazi cave art — the Anasazi were the forefathers of today's Pueblo peoples of New Mexico and Arizona. The mugs in this range (£3.95 each) will be gratefully received by design junkies with black and white kitchens; also monochrome is the cool Striding Bushman T-shirt (£11.95) bearing a simple Namibian cave painting.

There are bright colours, too, with the Indian hammock (£24.95) and seductively soft wool jacquard "Timberwolf" throw (180cm x 130cm, £49.99). I will be asking Father Christmas for the Amazonian petroglyph jewellery in porcelain and burnished with designs taken from rock carvings (earrings and brooch, £14.95 each), and will order the cufflinks (£14.95) for male friends.

From the RSPCA, a floral wallbox (8½in x 6½in x 2¼in, £9.99) comes with four miniature clay pots of dried and silk flowers and the Cat World noteblock (£5.99) is a 3½in cube of recycled paper sheets decorated with cats; the RSPCA Collection (£5.95 each, or three for £14.95), consisting of die-cast models of RSPCA vehicles past and present, is going straight to a four-year-old I know.

Animal lovers should also send off for the Worldwide Fund for Nature catalogue. Its pewter jaguar brooch (4in, £12.99) gets away from the cuddly-animal look and will match this season's jungle prints; cotton Serengeti boxer shorts (sizes medium and large, £14.99) are printed with endangered species from tigers to gorillas. My favourite present for the nursery is the alphabet throw (66in x 43¾in, £29.99) in blue and cream cotton, with each letter incorporating an animal picture.

The Great Ormond Street/Barnardos catalogue offers Santa slippers (sizes one to six, £4.99-£5.99), which children will enjoy prancing about in on Christmas Day; it also has a coated-wire candle holder (£9.99) and matching wine cradle (£7.99) decorated with grapes and vine leaves.

After a few drinks at Christmas, we tend to sing embarrassing hits of previous decades: the NSPCC's Humm Bug game (£12.99) will broaden the repertoire. The NSPCC's Mini Plane, made from a sparkplug (£8.99), is tailor-made for the mechanic manqué; while the polished chrome-look clipless paper fastener (£5.99) is the accessory of the moment for the executive's desk. You can insert favourite photographs into the NSPCC's Victorian-style Mini Photo Bookmarks (set of three, £4.99).

I would like one of the Save the Children's wonderfully eccentric, spring-operated Wupper Airlines mobiles (6½in long, 12in wing-span, £24.99). Its Golden Porker bookends (£19.99), making the front and back halves of a hefty squealer, are sturdy enough to support several impressive tomes. I also like the lightweight Montecristo Panama hats (£19.99), which are hand-woven and gift-wrapped in Ecuador, and will buy its Christmas gift sack of 20 luminous stars (£3.99) for some cosmic decorating.

The RSPB's sterling-silver acorn cufflinks (£34.95) will look good with a tweed jacket and jeans, and its William de Morgan kitchen accessories, with elegant fish and seawater fowl in blues and golden yellows — tea towel in 100 per cent Irish linen, £3.99; oven mitt and apron in 100 per cent cotton, £7.99 each — are perfect for classic kitchens.

A cricket fan friend will be receiving the RSPB's resin cricket-ball clock (£29.95), and the Historic View of the Cricket Bat (10½in x 11½in, £49.50) from the British Heart Foundation. This is a box-framed collection of scale-model cricket bats from the curved bat of 1720 to Jack Hobbs' bat of the 1930s.

A traditionalist will cherish the BHF's handcrafted mahogany desk accessories (letter-rack £49.95; pen tray £24, rocking blotter £16.95). On a Christmas theme, its Tumbling Santa Cake Candles (pack of six, £2.95), will bring pleasure to children and reluctant cake-decorators alike; as will the charming set of six hand-painted "nesting Santas" babushka dolls (heights from 6¾in to 1¾in, £15.95).

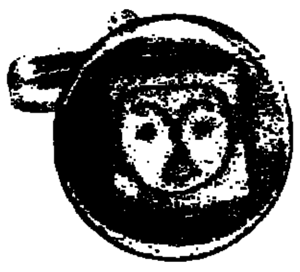
Marie Curie Cancer Care's cat chalkboard (£12.99) is the number-one accessory for the cat-lover's kitchen. It has a shelf for chalks and a white mouse-shaped duster. No bear-lover could resist the same charity's raggedly nostalgic Christmas teddy bear (15in, £12.99), in his hand-knitted festive jumper.

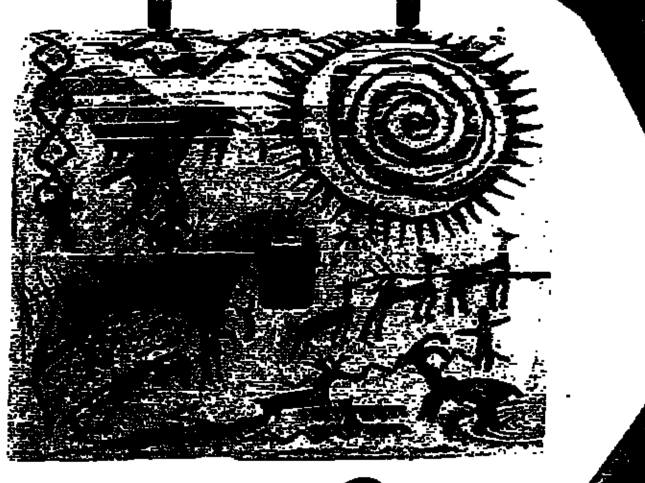
Oxfam's terracotta Thirsty Fish plant waterers (set of two, £12.95) will slowly release water into the soil of pot plants so that a pal can go away for the weekend without killing the spider plants. An armchair twitcher will receive the bird feeder (£6.95), complete with a bag of nuts.

Oxfam's white cotton embroidered tablecloth and napkins (£23.95) are just the thing for the dining room. The cloth (220cm x 135cm) is big enough for a standard table and the napkins (40cm sq) are a good dinner size.

· There is more or less something for everyone in this collection of catalogues, a recommended way to do your shopping without dropping.

STEPHANIE LEWIS





Above left, Anasazi plastic lunch box, £9.95. Top, rock-carving cufflinks, £14.95. Both from Survival's Tribale catalogue. Above, the Worldwide Fund for Nature's pewter jaguar brooch, £12.99

The WWF's snuggly alphabet throw, £29.99

Tribale's Amazonian petroglyph jewellery

A round-up of the mail-order catalogues

☐ The British Heart Foundation: p&p £3.25. Last order: *December 4 (catalogue: 01793 420000)*.

☐ Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital/Barnardos: p&p £2.59-£3.49 on orders up to £100, then free. Last order: December 1 (catalogue: 01268 288577).

☐ Marie Curie Cancer Care: p&p £2 on orders up to £20, then free. Last order: December 14 (catalogue 01672 542233).

☐ The National Trust: p&p £1.95 on orders up to £15, £3.95 on orders over £15. Last order: December 8 (catalogue: 01225 705676).

☐ NSPCC: £3.35 on orders up to £70, then free. Last order: December 14 (catalogue: 01283 506202).

☐ Oxfam: p&p £2.95 on all orders. Allow 28 days for delivery (catalogue: 01869 245011).

☐ Royal Society for the Protection of Birds: p&p *£3.35 on orders up to £70, then free. Last order:* December 15 (catalogue: 01283 506200).

☐ RSPCA: p&p £3.35 on orders up to £70, then free. Last order: December 15 (catalogue: 01283 506122).

☐ Save the Children: p&p £3.35 on orders up to £70, then free. Last order: December 15 (catalogue: 01283 506600).

☐ Tribale: p&p £2.95 on orders up to £15, £3.95 on orders over £15 (catalogue: 0171-242 1441).

☐ Worldwide Fund for Nature: p&p £3.35. Last order: December 15 (catalogue: 01283 506103).

● *All profit from the direct sale of items featured here goes wholly to the charity concerned.*

Lips that go on for ever

Pucker up for lipsticks which have staying power

Most manufacturers claim that their lipsticks are longer lasting and more luxurious than the rest, but which products do last through a normal day?

I tested a range from the less expensive brands to the luxury end of the market and gave each one a rating out of ten, taking into account staying power and value for money.

Kheils Since 1851 Inc Ultra Matte Lipstick
Colour: Indian Rose 977 (deep pink)
Price: £16.50
For stockist inquiries ring 0181-297 2645

VERDICT: This American brand had a soothing texture that feels more like a lip balm than lipstick, but has the staying power of some of the drier lip colours. Cups of tea, a lasagne and an ice cream could not budge it, and the lipstick stayed on my lips rather than on the cup and cutlery. I wish all lipsticks were like this — but cheaper.
RATING: 9/10 (would be 10/10 if it weren't so expensive)

Marks & Spencer Perfect Lipstick
Colour: Madrid (deep red)
Price: £5
Available from selected branches of Marks & Spencer nationwide

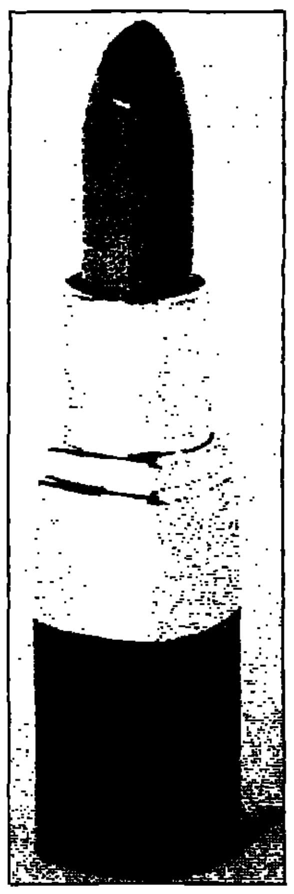
VERDICT: Very stylish packaging — especially for the price. Felt very light in texture but gave excellent coverage and moisture. Stayed put until supper time, when — on its third meal of the day — it finally vanished. Left a few trace marks on my first hot drink, but stayed firm after that. Excellent value.
RATING: 9/10

Max Factor Lasting Colour with Lip Tattoo
Colour: Purest Rose 110 (deep pink)
Price: £3.99
Available from good chemists and department stores nationwide

VERDICT: A moisture-rich lipstick that gave an even finish and lasted well into the afternoon, through a hot lunch and regular liquid refreshment. A little colour transferred to cups and glasses. By about 4pm reapplication was necessary. Good value.
RATING: 8/10

Ultima II Lipsexxxy Lipcolour
Colour: Just for Him Red 03 (bright red)
Price: £11.50
Available from major department stores nationwide

VERDICT: The lipstick has a flat top rather than the more usual wedge-shape. This means that if you don't use a lip brush, getting a neat line is tricky. However, once it was on it stayed on and only left slight traces of red on a glass. The colour seemed to stain the lips, and I had trouble taking it off at the end of the day. You sacrifice that comfortable, moist feeling to get the staying power. Expensive, but does the job.
RATING: 8/10



Kheils Ultra Matte Lipstick

Know-how

Tracy Cracknell, beauty director at the Ragdale Clinic in London, shares her *lipstick tips.*

- **Always moisturise your lips and apply foundation and loose powder.**
- **Use a toning lip pencil.**
- **Apply the first coat of lipstick with a brush, then blot with a tissue. Apply a dusting of powder before the final coat.**
- **In summer keep lipsticks in the fridge.**

Body Shop Colourings Lip Ink
Colour: Amethyst 02 (dark burgundy red)
Price: £2.95
Available from branches of The Body Shop nationwide

VERDICT: A felt-tip style pen, reminiscent of the sort that used to leak in your pencil case at school. The compact tip makes application easy and neat, drawing an outline and colouring it in. The result was even, acting more like a stain than a surface colour. However, it was dry, which left me wanting to add lip salve. It didn't leave a trace on cups or glasses. The colour lasted amazingly well but was difficult to remove.
RATING: 8/10

Cutex Lasting Colour Lipstick
Colour: Madeira Wine 47 (dark burgundy red)
Price: £3.49
Available from good chemists and department stores nationwide

VERDICT: A creamy lipstick that looked rich when applied. Survived both the cup of tea and the kiss test. It started to wear off after lunch but still looked respectable by late afternoon, when it started to "bleed" around the edges. Good value.
RATING: 7/10

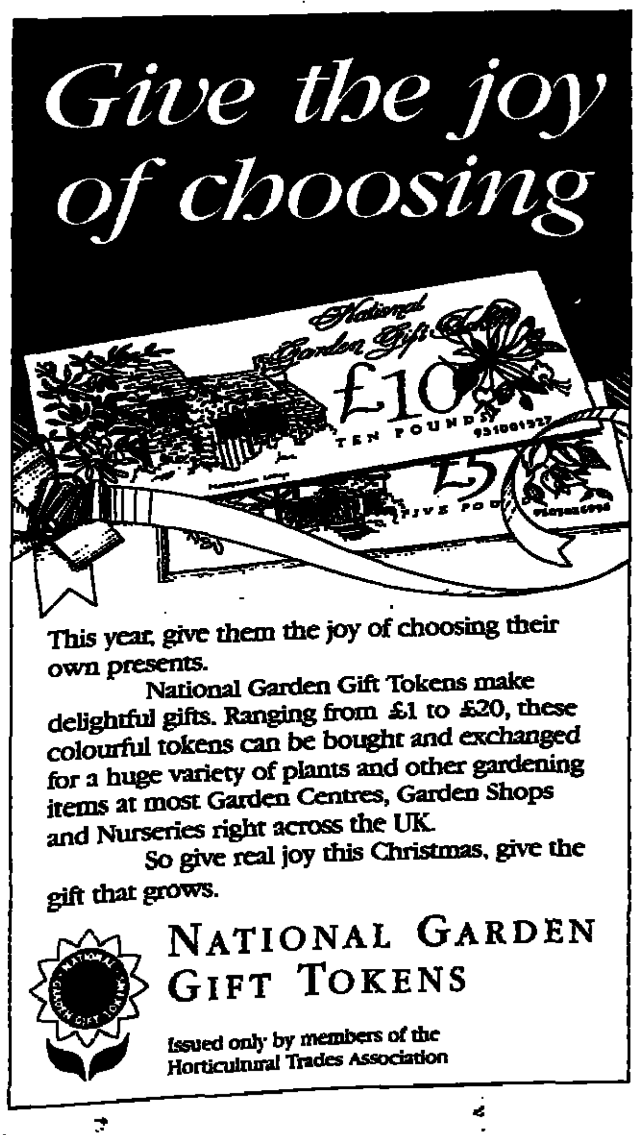
Lancôme Rouge A Lèvres Magiques
Colour: Prunelle 421 (blackcurrant)
Price: £12.00
Available from chemists and department stores

VERDICT: A comfortable, creamy texture that looked perfect for about five hours, despite leaving creamy marks on my glass every time I drank from it. It then started to wane. It does fade with dignity though, without looking blotchy or bleeding around the edges. Expensive.
RATING: 6/10

Rimmel Lasting Finish Lipstick
Colour: Black Cherries 08 (blackcurrant)
Price: £1.99
Available from good chemists and department stores nationwide

VERDICT: Rich, creamy texture on application which gave a deep, even colour. One mug of coffee later and it started to look as if I had applied clear lip gloss with just a hint of colour. It left a distinct mark on the mug. By lunchtime, the only traces of colour left were the streaks ingrained in the lines of my lips. But at that price, you don't mind having to reapply a couple of times a day.
RATING: 4/10

KAREN KAY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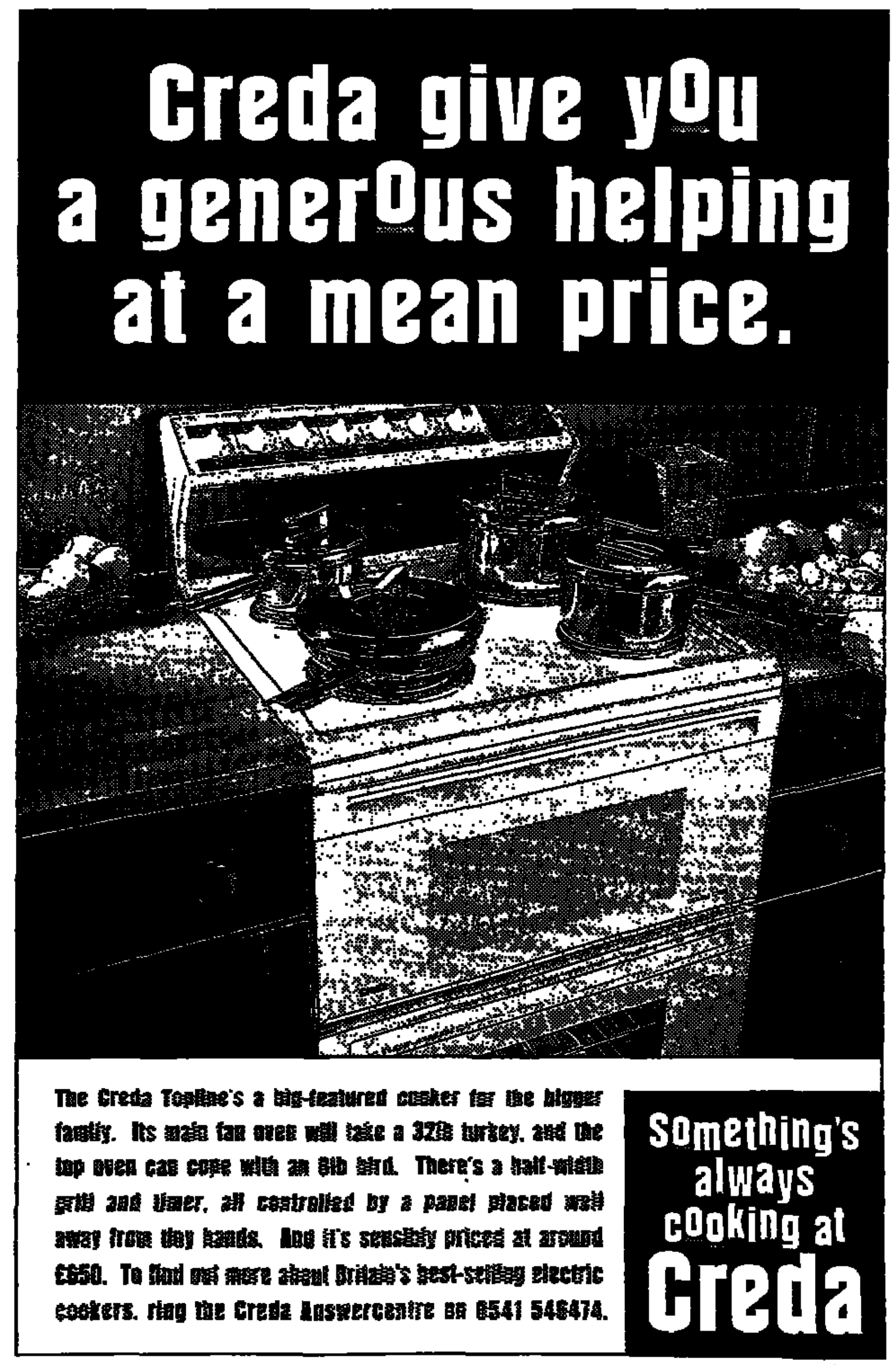
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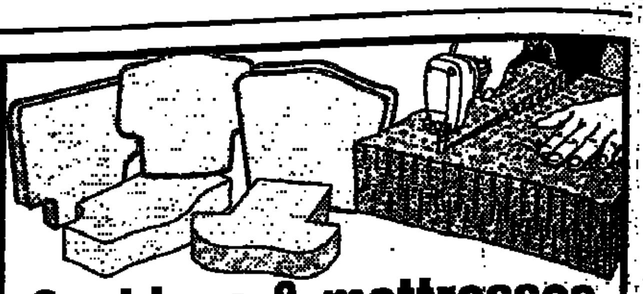

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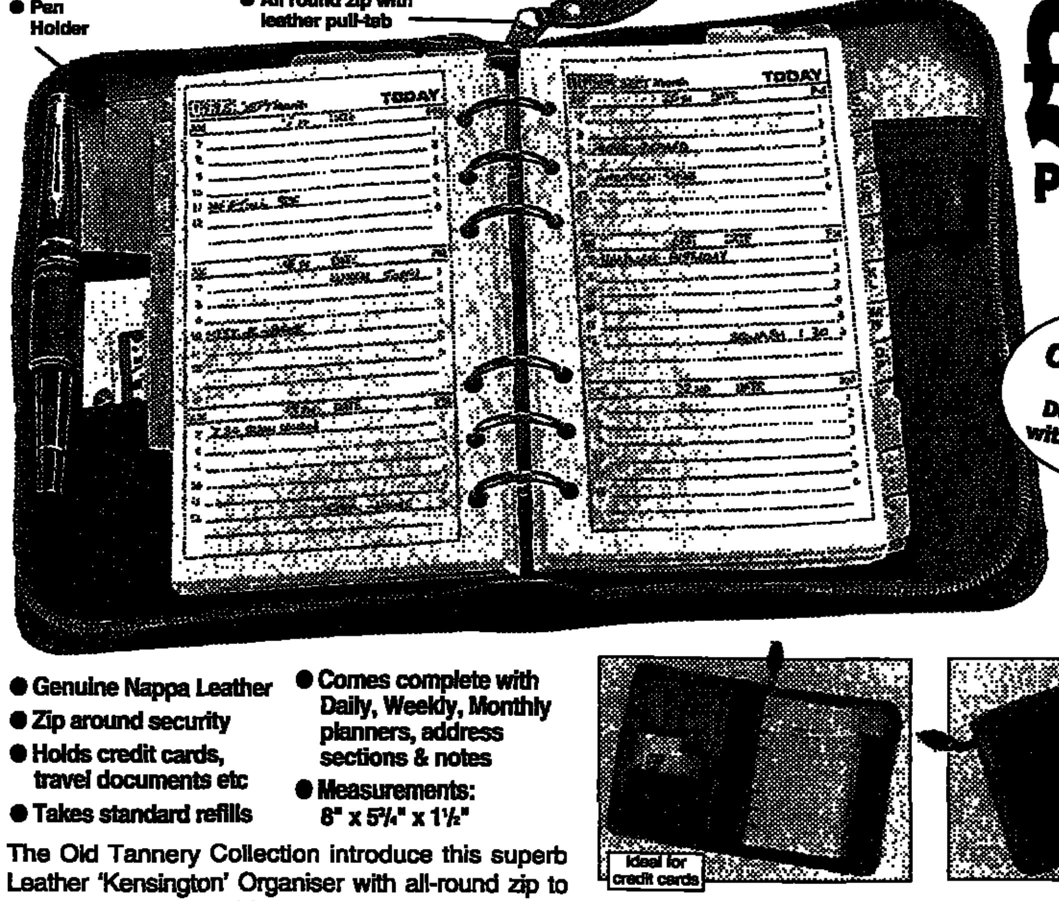

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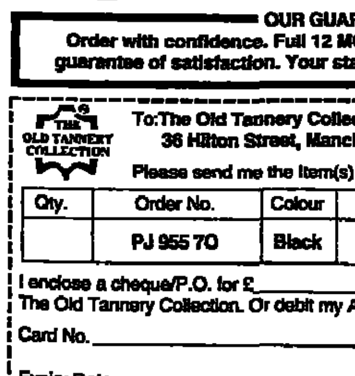
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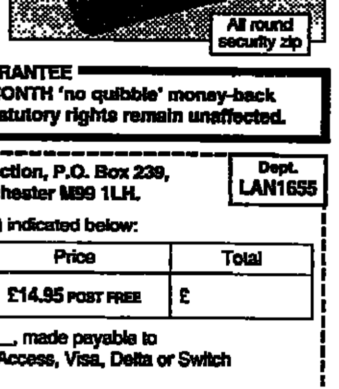
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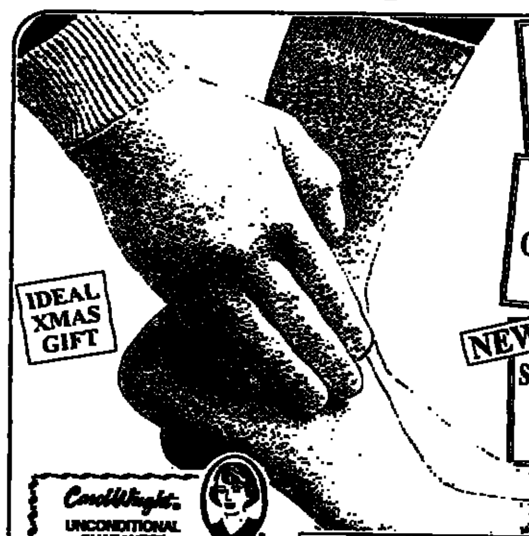

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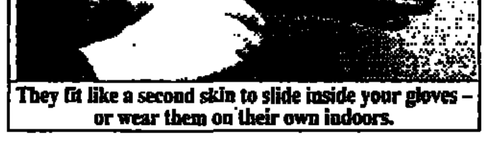
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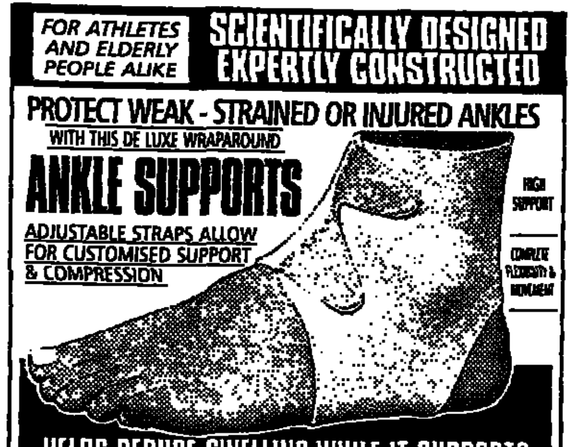

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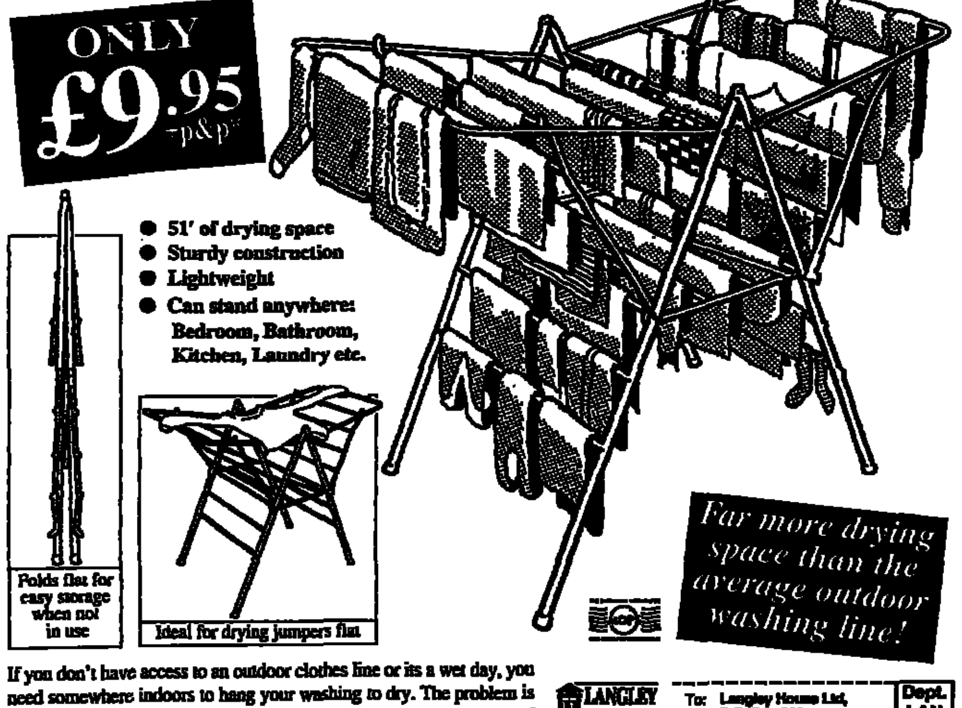

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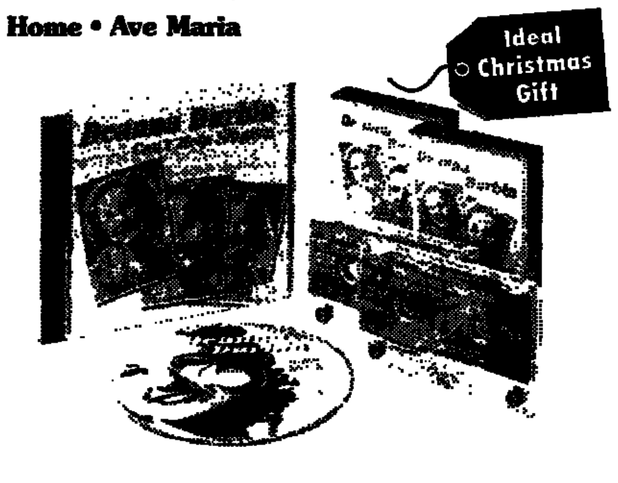

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Why can't the Booker be more fun?

The annual ceremony for Britain's most important literary prize could be beefed up with a bit more showbiz glitz and rather less ritual

DANIEL JOHNSON

Those of you who watched Pat Barker's *The Ghost Road* win the Booker Prize on BBC2 last Tuesday almost certainly found out more about the state of English fiction than the fortunate guests at the Guildhall in their evening gowns and black ties. Some of us should love to have watched Sarah Dunant chatting with the novelists Michèle Roberts and Howard Jacobson, plus Bill Buford of *The New Yorker* — not to mention interviews with the shortlisted authors, extracts read aloud, vox-pop sampling of opinion, and much more.

I am particularly sorry to have missed the stand-off between Jacobson and Buford: the former apparently criticised the hot favourite, Salman Rushdie's *The Moor's Last Sigh* ("I didn't believe in any of these characters"), but was silenced by Buford's reply: "We're talking about fiction here, Howard. You aren't supposed to believe in it."

I arrived at the Guildhall halfway through the main course, having dashed across the City after writing my piece on the winner. (A handful of journalists on the national dailies have to be given the result in advance, in strictest confidence, otherwise the story would miss the early editions and deprive our more distant readers.) The evening then followed its traditional course. Apart from food and drink, the guests are left for an hour or two to provide their own entertainment; there is no presentation of the authors and their books on a big screen, as happens at the Whitbread Book of the Year. Then come the speeches.

On Tuesday there were speeches by the chairman of Booker plc, Jonathan Taylor; the chairman of the judges, George Walden MP; the winner, Pat Barker; the retiring chairman of the steering committee and founding father of the prize, Sir Michael Caine; and Professor Gillian Beer, who spoke about Sir Michael.

Some of these speeches were funny — though not for all present: Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, looked rather uncomfortable when George Walden took a cheeky sideswipe at Jeffrey Archer's novels and John Major's taste for them. We shall miss Sir Michael's celebrated stammer, which is almost as much of an institution as the prize itself, and his magnificent commitment, sustained over a quarter of a century, to our leading literary prize.

Now, however, that Booker has a new broom, in the businesslike shape of Mr Taylor, the organisers should make it their first task to revamp the event itself. This is, after all, one of very few annual occasions when the nation's attention is briefly caught by writers. Yet it has already become unduly ritualised. Without adding greatly to the considerable cost to the sponsors, the evening could be made much more fun.

Why not, for instance, have large displays around the hall, with extracts from the shortlist and, perhaps, quotes from the critics? There should certainly be a large screen, so that everybody can see what is going on. I do not necessarily advocate hiring a presenter, though we have found that the Times/Dillons debates and lectures do benefit from the skills of a professional such as Melvyn Bragg. More important is that the master (or mistress) of ceremonies, whoever it may be, should ensure that everybody present knows exactly what the novels are about and who the authors are, while conveying drama and suspense. This is not a school prizegiving ceremony for grown-ups, after all, but a celebration of a living literature, the best novel that has been published in English that year throughout the Commonwealth, Ireland and South Africa. It is quite possible to maintain a proper sense of occasion while deploying showbiz techniques.

One more — I hope constructive — criticism. There is a depressing emphasis on the onerous task faced by the judges. The chairman of the judges always grumbles about the number of novels the jury has had to read; this year, it was 141, as we were told more than once. Yes, it does seem a lot — though, as Ruth Rendell acknowledged, not so very many in comparison to the 70,000 titles published annually.

It is also worth remembering that what seems to us a heavy burden of reading would not have impressed our ancestors. According to Roy Jenkins's *Gladstone* (Macmillan, £20), the Grand Old Man read (and annotated) 20,000 books in his long life, which means that he read rather more books than a Booker judge every single year — while spending 63 years in the Commons, 27 of them in office and 12 as Prime Minister. Most of Gladstone's books, of course, were not novels, but heavyweight volumes of theology and history, many of them in Greek, Latin, German, Italian or French. Anyone who doubts his erudition may examine them at St Deiniol's, Gladstone's residential library at Hawarden.

Gladstone was unique; but reading for pleasure is not. Nor should judging the Booker be presented as though it were like passing an examination. It is a privilege, which hardly anybody turns down. So let us have no more bleating from the lucky devils who are asked.

Gerald Kaufman on a comprehensive but portable opera guide; Lloyd Webber's diminishing returns; Pratchett hits the right notes

Opera in a pocket

■ THE PENGUIN OPERA GUIDE
Edited by Amanda Holden with Nicholas Kenyon and Stephen Walsh
Viking, £20

PRICES of opera programmes are exorbitant: £4 a go at Covent Garden, for example. This guide will pay for itself after only a few outings and is, moreover, light and slim enough to carry about.

It is, furthermore, remarkably comprehensive. While no substitute for the four-volume *Grove Dictionary of Opera*, nor seeking to usurp its plumper (and much more expensive) elder sister, *The Viking Opera Guide*, it is more up-to-date than either, offers exemplary coverage of 20th-century operas and operetta and pays suitable homage to eight composers of Broadway musicals (excelling both *Grove* and *Viking* by including Sondheim's latest, *Passion*, a superbly intense work yet to reach Britain).

A British composer of musicals is also discussed, though it is questionable whether Andrew Lloyd Webber will welcome unreservedly a section which loftily remarks that his "work . . . has escaped the full-blooded approbation of the critics" and refers to "the rather coarse and dated hard-rock elements of *Jesus Christ Superstar*" and "the shallowness of the sung characters" and "generally wooden nature of the composition" of *The Phantom of the Opera*.

The criterion for any guide is whether it can be read not only for reference but for entertainment, and Amanda Holden and her contributors pass this test with first-class honours. Mozart's *The Magic Flute* is lauded not only for its musical qualities but as a crime preventative ("If you listen regularly to [it], you may be less inclined to go out and mug old-age pensioners"). Harrison Birtwistle's *The Second Mrs Kong* is properly acknowledged as having been inspired by a Hollywood film, *King Kong*, while Auber's *Fra Diavolo* is given appropriate credit for having been, by contrast, the inspiration for a Hollywood film (a Laurel and Hardy comedy).

This *Penguin Guide* is comprehensively informative about lesser-known compositions which share origins with more famous ones: adding, for example, John Corigliano's *The Ghosts of Versailles* to earlier Figaro operas (Mozart, Paisiello, Rossini) derived from Beaumarchais. It also gives suitable recognition to such weirdo works as Henze's *The English Cat*, in which nearly all the participants are indeed cats, Shostakovich's *The Nose*, whose eponymous protagonist is a perambulant proboscis, and Poulenc's *Les Mamelles de Tiresias*, irresistible nonsense featuring a soprano whose breasts float away to the sound of a *valse chantée*.

PAUL LOVELACE

Hidden shallows: Sarah Brightman and Michael Crawford in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera* — hit show, but where are the tunes?

More is less when any tune will do

■ THE MUSICALS OF ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER
By Keith Richmond
Virgin, £16.99

GO ANYWHERE that music is piped and you are likely to hear some half-recognised sentimental melody written by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Since 1968, when the 20-year-old Lloyd Webber and 24-year-old Tim Rice wrote *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* as a 20-minute piece for the boys of Colet Court prep school, he has created ten stage shows. In the process he has become a multimillionaire, theatre owner, impresario, art collector and a knight. He has married three times and is still only 47.

This coffee-table book, plentifully illustrated with press cuttings and photographs, tells the story but does little to explain the phenomenon. True the early shows — *Joseph*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Evita* — written with Tim Rice, gave a new look to musicals by taking out the dialogue, so that they were through-composed, like opera. But even they demonstrated a law of diminishing returns musically, with half a dozen hit tunes in *Joseph*, four in *Superstar*, and three in *Evita*, and even there Lloyd Webber demonstrated such a debt to the music of such predecessors as Puccini, Elgar and Rachmaninov that an American critic observed that he wrote "music that gives eclecticism a bad name".

In recent years things have become even worse. The last two shows, *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Sunset Boulevard*, both still packing them in in the West End and on Broadway, hardly offer three good hits between them: it is much more a matter of humming the sets and lighting effect.

The son of a distinguished organist and music college director, Lloyd Webber seems to have created less and less as the years roll by. His musicals to date have earned £1.5 billion and made him exceedingly rich. But next time you hear the Muzak, try identifying it. The odds are that the tune will be *Any Dream Will Do* from *Joseph*, *I Don't Know How To Love Him* from *Jesus Christ Superstar*, or *Don't Cry For Me, Argentina* from *Evita*, all more than 20 years old. The notes may not flow abundantly any more, but the royalties still roll in, and that, perhaps, is the problem.

DAVID FINGLETON

Music, magic, mayhem

■ MASKERADE
By Terry Pratchett
Gollancz, £15.99

THE ARTS tend to flourish spectacularly but briefly on the Discworld. Terry Pratchett has already roughed up the theatre (*Wyrd Sisters*), rock (*Soul Music*) and cinema (*Moving Pictures*). In *Maskerade*, it is the turn of opera — fat sopranos, phantom and all. Pratchett has set himself a tough task since opera plots are about the only ones as absurd as his own.

So, the Lancre witches, Granny Weatherwax and Nanny Ogg, need a third to make up a real coven: "when shall we two meet again" just does not have the right ring. Accompanied by Nanny's cat Greebo, they set off to recruit Agnes Nitt. But Agnes, a large girl but "with a lovely personality", has her heart set on becoming a singer (if possible under the "thin" name of Perdita X). Meanwhile, people are being murdered at Mr Buckett's opera house. . .

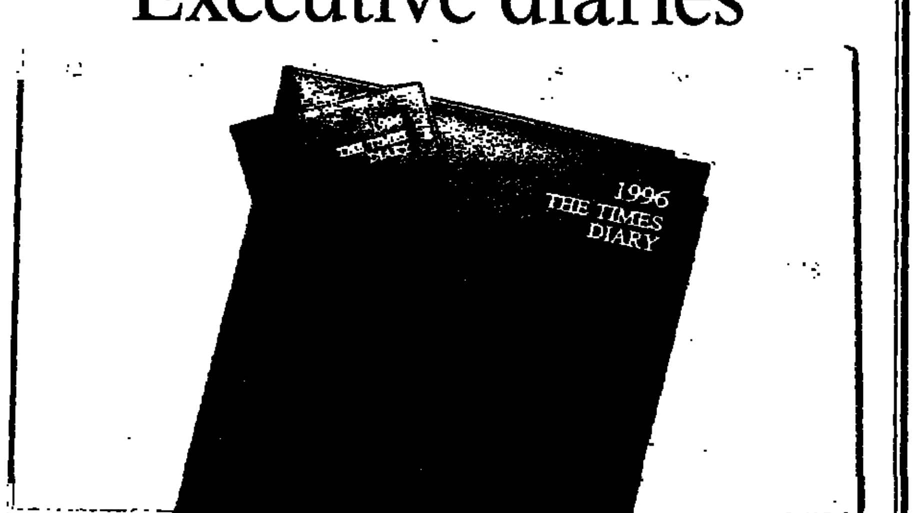
Well, it is not *La Wally*, but after Pratchett has bolted on the Discworld accessories — magic, mayhem and Death (suffering from repetitive strain injury) — the result is everything we have come to expect. So is the humour: pretension is bludgeoned with bathos, conventional wisdom is turned on its head, and almost nobody has grasped the concept of metaphor. *Discworld* fans will not be disappointed with this latest biannual fix.

Perhaps the jokes are less abundant, the style a mite predictable* — but 18 novels into this bestselling series, criticism is redundant. With Pratchett on its list, Gollancz can carry on enjoying "the dream of all those who publish books, which was to have so much gold in your pockets that you would have to employ two people just to hold your trousers up".

PETER INGHAM

* *and there are too few footnotes.*

THE TIMES
READER OFFER
Executive diaries



The Times announces the launch of two new diaries designed specifically for the busy executive. Both the desk diary and its pocket equivalent can be ordered in either deep grain Montana leather or smooth Napoli hide. The colour is black embossed with gold. They measure 256mm x 210mm and 174mm x 84mm.

The Napoli desk diary costs £59.99 and in Montana, £39.99. The Napoli pocket diary costs £25 and the Montana, £15.

Printed in burgundy and grey type on top quality cream paper with gilt edging, the diary pages also have perforated corners so you can easily access the current week.

Both diaries have a 13-month week-on-two-pages (12-month in the pocket version), a burgundy ribbon marker, year planner, three-year forward planner, pages for expenses and staff holidays and 16 pages of world maps in colour.

There is also an extensive information section which includes a business analysis chart, European and international travel information and restaurant addresses.

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Morality play

■ HEARING VOICES
By A. N. Wilson
Sinclair-Stevenson, £14.99

THIS is the fourth book in A. N. Wilson's Lampitt Papers series but is so complete and satisfying in itself that new readers may start here without feeling clueless.

The story skeeters between the late 1960s and AD 2000, mostly narrated by the actor and writer Julian Ramsay. In the first year of the new century, at the age of 65, he is starring in a one-man show in New York, playing James Petworth Lampitt, the campy ranconteur who is the subject of biographies by Ramsay himself and by his sinister rival, Raphael Hunter.

In spite of the scampering narrative and knockabout humour, *Hearing Voices* is far more serious than the rompish comedy it sometimes pretends to be: it is very much concerned with the ways of God as perceived by the various characters in the book, some of whom are mouthpieces for a particular religious point of view.

Absorbed and delighted by the aspects of the novel that deal with literary skulduggery and various engaging love affairs, and the deft symmetry of Wilson's plotting, it is only when you have finished the book that you realise that you have undergone a crash course in moral philosophy without even noticing.

PENNY PERRICK

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HARDBACK

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2	NIGEL MANSELL: MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY **Nigel Mansell & James Allen** *(CollinsWillow)*	£16.99	0	1
3	IMMEDIATE ACTION **Andy McNab** *(Bantam)*	£15.99	0	1
4	FROM POTTER'S FIELD **Patricia Cornwell** *(Little Brown)*	£15.99	2	5
5	MASKERADE **Terry Pratchett** *(Gollancz)*	£15.99	0	1
6	COME TO GRIEF **Dick Francis** *(Michael Joseph)*	£15.99	4	8
7	TO BE HONEST WITH YOU **Linford Christie** *(Michael Joseph)*	£16.99	0	1
8	ISLAND OF THE DAY BEFORE **Umberto Eco** *(Secker & Warburg)*	£16.99	5	5
9	THE HORSE WHISPERER **Nicholas Evans** *(Bantam)*	£14.99	3	4
10	THE LOST WORLD **Michael Crichton** *(Century)*	£14.99	6	2

PAPERBACK

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3	WRITING HOME **Alan Bennett** *(Faber)*	£7.99	3	4
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5	DAUGHTERS OF CAIN **Colin Dexter** *(Pan)*	£4.99	7	3
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8	SIMISOLA **Ruth Rendell** *(Arrow)*	£4.99	11	4
9	FATHERLAND **Robert Harris** *(Arrow)*	£4.99	9	5
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هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

NEW IN PAPERBACK

Wilson: skilfully catches the atmosphere of an era

■ THE LAMPITT PAPERS
By A. N. Wilson
Mandarin, £8.99

HERE in one volume are the first three books chronicling the life of Julian Ramsay, a failed writer who spent an undistinguished quarter century as a voice in an *Archers*-type radio series.

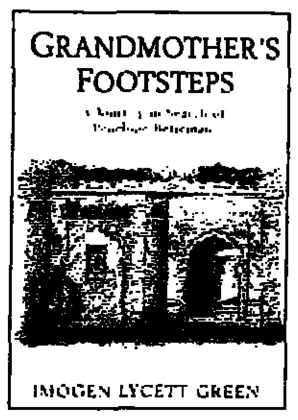
Orphaned by the Blitz, he goes to live in the country with his repressed aunt, clever, lumpen cousin Felicity and his uncle the vicar. All their conversations revolve around the Lampitts, the local aristocrats. At his horrendous prep school he makes the first of the network of acquaintances who will recur throughout his life, including the amusing Darnley, one day to edit a satirical magazine, and Raphael Hunter.

Hunter establishes his reputation with a scurrilous biography of the literary Lampitt, Jimbo, supposedly based on the Lampitt papers, to which he manages to retain sole access even when they are sold abroad. Later, after wrecking Julian's fleetingly happy marriage, he wins a libel action against the eccentric philosopher, Albion Pugh, one of Darnley's writers, who accuses him of Jimbo's murder.

Wilson skilfully deploys his gallery of slight caricatures to catch the atmosphere of an era, whether it is the austere 1950s, or the bright, hectic 1960s, and captures the disillusion of a character frustrated by his own lack of talent, both for artistic endeavour and human relationships.

■ LUD HEAT and SUICIDE BRIDGE
By Iain Sinclair
Vintage, £5.99

LIKE his friend Peter Ackroyd, Sinclair is a visionary for whom the past always interacts with the present in mysterious ways. *Lud Heat*, generally considered to be the inspiration for Ackroyd's *Hawksmoor*, explores the strange history of the eight East London churches of the architect Nicholas Hawksmoor, and how they seem to be connected by a network of ley lines. *Suicide Bridge* is a meditation on the nature of myth, with digressions on the Moors murders and the Kray twins.



■ GRANDMOTHER'S FOOTSTEPS
A Journey in Search of Penelope Betjeman
By Imogen Lycett Green
Pan, £5.99

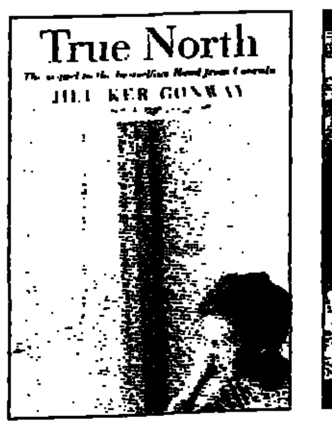
PENELOPE BETJEMAN, née Chetwode, wife of the poet, arrived in India in 1928 as the beautiful daughter of the Indian Army's C-in-C. She very quickly "went bazaari" — ie, made friends with Indians. India became her second home, and she died leading a party of tourists to the Himalayas at the age of 76. In this touching and amusing travelogue her granddaughter retraces her last journey. It is an affectionate but unsentimental picture both of modern India and of Penelope — a spiritual and earthy eccentric who believed that "the secret of happiness is to know your own limitations", though she seems to have had remarkably few herself.

■ TALES OF THE NEW BABYLON
By Rupert Christiansen
Minerva, £7.99

THE Franco-Prussian war, the siege of Paris and the fall of Emperor Louis-Napoleon form the backdrop to this vivid, expansive history of a city *in extremis*. These were the years of revolution and creation, of Manet, Degas and Flaubert, but it was also the era of suffering and starvation. This study fascinates because Christiansen writes with the same enthusiasm and perspicacity about the lives of ordinary Parisians as he does about the great events of the day.

■ THE HEART IN EXILE
By Rodney Garland
Millivres Books, £8.50

WRITTEN in 1953, before the Wolfenden report, this courageously open novel explores the psychology of homosexuality through the eyes of a distinguished gay psychiatrist, Tony Page, who is determined to find out why his one-time lover, Julian Leclerc, has committed suicide. As Page slowly discoveres, his life had become intolerably complicated, partly by the return of a former lover, mainly by the hostility of the "normal" world. A fascinating and impassioned plea for tolerance.



Perez Family

■ TRUE NORTH
By Jill Ker Conway
Vintage, £6.99

THIS memoir tracks the author's journey from difficult Australian roots. In a culture hostile to bluestockings, she rose to a distinguished career in North American academe, culminating in her appointment as President of the prestigious Smith College. Education at Ivy League universities, in the early 1960s, then life with her scholar husband at the expanding University of Toronto in the 1970s gave her the lasting joy of intellectual life in a more supportive climate. A pioneering historian and astute administrator, she shows just how far commitment may take an educated woman.

■ THE PEREZ FAMILY
By Christine Bell
Virago £6.99

JUAN PEREZ spent 20 years as a political prisoner in Cuba, dreaming of the day when he would be reunited with the family he sent to America. On the boat to Miami he meets the redoubtable Dottie, someone to whom America means John Wayne, blue jeans and unlimited nail varnish, and once in the refugee camp they begin to collect a stand-in family of Perezes — senile Papa and hoodlum Felipe — to improve their chances of finding a sponsor. Meanwhile Juan searches desperately for his wife, not realising that he is totally unrecognisable. A comic and touching tale with a happy ending.

Contributors: Fiona Hook, Hazel Leslie, Jason Cowley, Nicki Household, Alison Burns

Pomp and circumstance — where does the Royal Family fit in modern Britain?

Throne open to debate

THE MONARCHY is the hot subject for the 1990s. Vernon Bogdanor and Frank Prochaska have both produced important contributions to the debate.

Bogdanor, Reader in Government at the University of Oxford, has written the essential handbook for understanding the history and intricate machinery of constitutional monarchy in Britain. His theme is the evolution of the authority of the monarchy from power to influence, from head of government to head of the nation as well as head of state. He deals with the controversial and often ill-defined operation of the prerogative in the 20th century and its deployment in the face of hung parliaments and the possible introduction of proportional representation.

He examines the monarch's position in relation to the Commonwealth and to the established Church of England and the Church of Scotland, concluding that if disestablishment were to come, a secular monarchy might benefit by being more in tune with the spirit of the age.

He is an advocate of the independence of the monarchy from the increasing tendency of Parliament to exert financial control over its operations. "The danger", he writes, "is that the control which the political parties have established over so many facets of British life would serve to limit the monarchy so that it became a mere cipher."

He sees the non-partisan character of the monarchy as its major justification, placing the position of head of state outside the arena of political competition: "It alone can represent the whole nation in an emotionally satisfying way; it alone is in a position to interpret the nation to itself." In an age when politicians are held in increasing disregard, an apolitical head of state is of crucial importance. The era of the "magical monarchy" ended with the age of deference; its future lies in a greater involvement with society, the "welfare conception" of the monarchy.

The concept of a "welfare monarchy" is the theme of Prochaska's fascinating and important book. Like Bogdanor, he is no fan of big government and sees the monarchy's role as being a crucial buffer between state and society. Ranging back over the struggle between voluntary and collectivist views of welfare and society which ended in apparent victory for the latter with the introduction of the welfare state in 1945, he highlights the contribution of the Royal Family to the provision of welfare. The benevolent altruism of George III and Queen Charlotte and the huge expansion of the voluntary sector in social welfare under Victoria developed in the first two decades of the 20th century into a deliberate policy by the Palace to put the monarchy in touch with the people over the heads of socialist politicians.

■ THE MONARCHY AND THE CONSTITUTION
By Vernon Bogdanor
Clarendon Press, £19.99

■ ROYAL BOUNTY: The Making of a Welfare Monarchy
By Frank Prochaska
Yale University Press, £19.95

AFTER the Second World War, the Palace advisers concentrated on the political role, considering the battle for voluntarism lost — mistakenly, in Prochaska's view. Today, the cracks in the welfare monolith are apparent to all, leaving an important role for the voluntary sector. The monarchy can play a leading part in encouraging citizens' contributions to welfare.

The Prince of Wales's advisers have realised this, although, Prochaska points out, they are ignorant of the past in regarding the Prince as a pioneer in this respect. The Duke of Edinburgh has always been a proponent of self-help. The Princess of Wales finds charity work therapeutic, the Duchess of York redemptive. Whatever the motive, philanthropy brings the Royal Family conspicuously in touch with the people, doing good and being seen to do so. Prochaska sees voluntary action as essential to democracy and civil society in the face of apathy and bureaucracy; it is a field in which the Royal Family is ideally placed to take the lead.

SARAH BRADFORD

UNIVERSAL PICTORIAL PRESS & AGENCY

At 95, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother is "the last symbol of a secure monarchy"

Our Teflon granny

PENELOPE MORTIMER intended only to add an updated postscript to her sparky and refreshingly sceptical 1986 biography of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. But she found herself rewriting almost the entire book — proof, as Mortimer readily admits, that authors should never reread their own works.

This recasting of a perfectly good original is an exercise in frustration. For all that has happened to the Royal Family in the past decade, most of it bad, Mortimer can unearth virtually no fresh evidence to fuel her suspicion that the elder Queen Elizabeth not only detested Wallis Simpson when the two chalk-and-cheese women encountered each other in the pre-abdication months of 1936, but conducted a lifetime vendetta against her.

■ QUEEN MOTHER: An Alternative Portrait of Her Life and Times
By Penelope Mortimer
Andre Deutsch, £9.99

Would that your average tabloid royal hack could put his lack of facts with such neat honesty as Mortimer: "Until the present heir to the throne made the mistake of not getting on with his wife, David Windsor and Hamlet were the two princes in history to provide topics of inexhaustible speculation."

The speculation continues. Anyone attempting to analyse the life of the Queen Mother, the Garbo of Windsor, is faced with the problem that the consummate actress has not given a single interview since a *Daily Sketch* reporter had ten unproductive minutes with her on her engagement in 1923.

Mortimer concludes that that is just as an adoring nation wants it. "Who is the adulation actually for? The shrewd, fairly intelligent upper-class girl who happened to marry a king, or an image created by people's longing for an inaccessible sweetheart, a Queen Mother of their own?" Mortimer supplies the inevitable answer: "It is almost universally believed that the Queen Mother is invaluable as the last symbol of a secure monarchy and should therefore enjoy its privileges."

One of those privileges is patently a private life that remains secret. One day we shall know more but sadly, despite the best efforts of the entertainingly perceptive Mortimer, whose portrait is still one of the sharpest we have, that day is not yet.

ALAN HAMILTON

Yankee doodle dandski

■ RED MERCURY BLUES
By Reggie Nadelson
Faber, £14.99

AMID the plethora of second-rate spy novels that marked the latter half of the Cold War, there was one that stood out for radically altering the agenda. Martin Cruz Smith's *Gorky Park* was a novel set in Moscow and New York and laced with the intrigue of East-West relations, but with a unique twist: the good guy was not just an honest cop, but a Russian. It broke the mould, but unfortunately established a new one, which even the author could not break.

Now along comes Reggie Nadelson with a *Gorky Park* for the 1990s as Dashiell Hammet might have done it. *Red Mercury Blues* is a mine of taut, snappy writing, set in a New World Order peopled with Russian mobsters.

Reggie Nadelson displays her native New Yorker's instinctive feel for the global cosmopolis and its ever-evolving racial mix, with each tide of immigrants replacing the last on the bottom rung of the ladder and adding their own underworld idiosyncracies to streets that are already among the meanest on earth.

So New York on the cusp of the millennium is a city where both cops and robbers are Russians, while Moscow is relapsing into warlord-led feudalism. This is not science fiction: on my last three trips to the eastern United States, my taxi drivers came from Odessa, St Petersburg and Moscow, while back in the former USSR former KGB men with guns run gangs of hookers in new nightclubs.

Nadelson's hero is Artie (born Artyomy Maximovich) Cohen, a jazz-loving New York cop and genuine Jewish immigrant at "the first time in history when Russians want to be Jewish" because they get a better deal in America, even the criminals. He also happens to have an uncle who was a KGB general until he was shot dead live on prime-time network television.

Artie, who hates all things Russian with the passion of a convert to a new way of life, finds himself thrown among the new mafioskis of Brighton Beach on a trail that soon becomes literally hot — with radioactivity. A new underground East-West axis is smuggling the hottest hooch imaginable: deadly cocktails of plutonium, cesium and the quasi-mythical red mercury.

Even when the action moves to Moscow, Nadelson's feel remains mostly sound. The times they are a-changin', and Nadelson has her finger on the pulse.

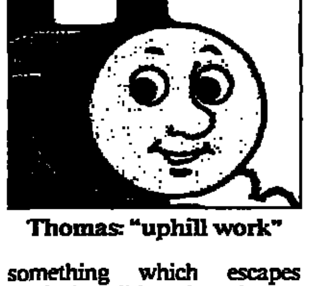
PETER MILLAR

Thomas runs out of puff

AFTER 26 years of service, something very disagreeable happened to Thomas, Gordon, Henry, James and their other chums along the line. Their creator, the Rev Wilbert Awdry, simply gave up on them. He said that inventing new adventures was "uphill work" and that "he had run out of steam". In this detailed illustrated biography of the English vicar commonly known as the *Thomas the Tank Engine* man, Brian Sibley explains how, like Lewis Carroll, Awdry "drained the wells of fancy dry".

The popularity of the world-famous railway series with Thomas in the starring role, surprised Awdry as much as anyone. True, his own children had always enjoyed them, but the fact that successive generations of children from 1945 onwards who have rarely seen a steam engine have continued to enjoy them is something which escapes analysis. Sibley cites the romance of steam and Awdry's passion for technical detail. It also seems likely that Awdry's passion for his subject matter transmitted itself into the anthropomorphism which, although sometimes sneered at, has a powerful attraction for children.

■ THE THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE MAN
By Brian Sibley
Heinemann, £19.99


Thomas: "uphill work"

Born into the clergy, Awdry grew up with a model railway in his garden. But apart from the moment of desperation when he was fired from his parish in the Second World War for being a pacifist, his work as a clergyman always came first. With pre-nuptial couples, he tried to be a realist: "So often they had the idea that everything was going to be oojah-cum-spiff all the time. Of course, it never is."

His writing for children continued to take place in a bright, clean, unvandalised world set somewhere in the 1950s. "Happy is the man," he once said, "who has a private world of his own." At 84, he still inhabits it, but by the 1960s, the teak-like prose was beginning to show the strain. By 1973, the barrel was dry.

MAUREEN OWEN

Thomas Keneally toyed with priesthood in adolescence

A brush with the cloth

■ HOMEBUSH BOY: A MEMOIR
By Thomas Keneally
Hodder & Stoughton, £14.99

PROLIFIC and original, Keneally's work probably covers a wider range than any other novelist writing, even if most readers known him as the Booker-winning author of *Schindler's Ark*.

The autobiographical *Homebush Boy* sees our hero in his teens, grandson of an Irish immigrant, influenced by a Catholic upbringing (his Christian Brothers teachers wanted him to become a priest) and always dipping into the collected poems of Gerard Manley Hopkins. He was also in love with the beautiful if unattainable Bernadette Curran.

Like many a lad of 17 in Sydney, Tom had dreams: playing professional rugby or breaking records on the track, but ambition, probably outstretched ability. A poet, too — time would tell. And there was always Bernadette.

Keneally is particularly good on the parental relationships. He recalls his father, a carpenter manqué, making him a wooden schoolbag, "metal clips at every corner and an accurately fitted lock". After three years, it was reduced to splinters by a reversing No 414 bus. "That," remarks Keneally, "was like the close of childhood."

Young Keneally's canter into manhood was also enhanced by Bernadette. Imagine the shock when the love of your life announces that she intends to become a nun. Young Tom's solution was to go one better: he would follow the advice of those Christian Brothers and become a priest.

We know, of course, that Keneally actually became a writer. And just how that happened will, I trust, be the sequel. In the meantime, we have in *Homebush Boy* Keneally's disarming lightness of touch that reveals self-analysis of a high order.

ION TREWIN

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RECORDINGS

NEW ON CD: Davis tackles Wagner; rivals for Tchaikovsky's heart; Tony Bennett as a ladies' man; the Stones stripped bare

OPERA

John Higgins

■ WAGNER
Lohengrin
Sweet/Marton/Heppner/Leiferkus/Rootering/Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra/Davis
RCA 09026 62646 2 (3 CDs)★★
Cunitz/Klose/Schock/Metternich/Frick/Northwest German Radio Symphony Orchestra/Schüchter
EMI Références 5 65517 2 (3 CDs)★

SIR COLIN DAVIS no longer shows signs of needing to hurry things. He has waited until his late sixties before recording his first Wagner opera, and *Lohengrin* carries with it a mature, almost autumnal serenity. He glories in the ceremonial but does not allow it to dominate too early. Only in the final scene on the banks of the River Scheldt are the trumpets of the Bavarian Radio Symphony really allowed to bray. The chorus is kept subdued and often sounds uncomfortably distant. Davis emphasises the mystical elements and turns *Lohengrin* into a moral fairy-tale for adults.

Terfel: vocal strength

He has the great fortune of Ben Heppner in the title role. Wagner's knight in shining armour should have no rust in the voice and Heppner makes his tenor combine constant clarity with a touch of other-worldliness. Very occasionally Heppner has to work hard to force out a top note, but he is in the line of great Lohengrins.

Nobody else in RCA's cast attains this level, unless it be Bryn Terfel as the Herald. His vocal strength suggests that he is running Brabant rather than Jan-Hendrik Rootering's pedestrian King Henry. Sharon Sweet's Elsa is eloquent without ever persuading us that she is a natural Wagner soprano. RCA's set takes a dip in the lengthy middle act while the plotting goes on. Sergei Leiferkus's Telramund lacks focus and is oddly unmalevolent. The Petersburg baritone normally carries a good line in villains, with Iago at the top of the list, but not here. Perhaps like Sweet he is happier in Verdi than Wagner. Eva Marton's Ortrud lacks nothing in evil, but she blows up vocal squalls as well as pagan powers.

EMI's *Lohengrin* was one of the first Wagners to come out on the new-fangled LPs back in 1953. It was made in Hamburg, drawing mainly on that city's opera house, and it has the bonus of an all-German cast. Rudolf Schock may not be the most spiritual of Lohengrins but he always sounds like a good man to be at one's side in a rumble. EMI has other top-class men in Gottlob Frick's Henry and Josef Metternich's Telramund. But the women are dismal: Maud Cunitz (from the Bavarian State Opera) is a pallid Elsa and Maragrete Klose sounds well past her best as Ortrud. Schüchter is decent rather than front rank as a conductor. The sound, in mono, is adequate.

BAROQUE

Hilary Finch

■ LOCKE
Psyche
New London Consort/Pickett
L'Oiseau-Lyre 444 336-2★★★

AS PURCELL'S year draws to a close, the shadowy figures of his immediate predecessors, Matthew Locke, Giovanni Battista Draghi and Thomas Shadwell, continue to hover over the celebrations with their own bucolic dances and drunken choruses. Few discs this year have given such vivid context to Purcell's English theatre as this first ever recording of Matthew Locke's 1675 *Psyche*, a still sadly neglected landmark in English operatic history.

Philip Pickett has edited Locke's own music, and Peter Holman has reconstructed Draghi's keyboard dances into ensemble pieces to replace his complementary instrumental numbers, which are now lost. There are solemn sackbuts for Apollo's rites, silvery, beautifully articulated strings for the Olympian scene, and the growling of regal and great bass viol for assorted Furies and Devils. Michael George doubles as Pan and Pluto; Catherine Bott as Proserpine and a nicely flighty Venus.

Best of all, though, are cameos such as the imaginatively realised and gleefully executed *Dance of Cyclopes*, "forging great vases of silver" in the golden palace of Cupid; the soft breath of theorbos which accompanies the "invisible singers"; and the frolics of Paul Agnew's Vulcan with his boozy mechanicals, as the English language flexes its muscle to bend its own inflections to French and Italian cadence.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ TCHAIKOVSKY/GLAZUNOV
Violin Concertos
Vengerov/Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra/Abbado
Teldec 4509-90881-2★★★
□ TCHAIKOVSKY/SIBELIUS
Violin Concertos
Josefowicz/ASMF/Marriner
Philips 446-131-2★★★

RECORDINGS of the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto are not exactly in short supply: among the dozens currently on offer, there is something for all tastes, from Heifetz to Vanessa-Mae. But these two new entrants to the field are both rather special. Maxim Vengerov's version follows in the wake of his award-winning Prokofiev/Shostakovich release, while the Philips disc is the recording debut of the latest violin prodigy: an 18-year-old American called Leila Josefowicz.

Vengerov has the benefit of Claudio Abbado and the Berlin Philharmonic as accompanists, while Josefowicz plays with Neville Marriner, who has taken a keen interest in her career over a period of some five years. As for the Tchaikovsky, there is not a great deal to choose: both players demonstrate the highest technical skills, as well as supreme expressivity. Each has his or her own way of handling the contemplative passages, such as the recitative-like introduction to the first movement's main subject, or the more restrained second subject (Josefowicz shows the greater contrast here).

Abbado: an advantage

Josefowicz's is marginally the more dynamic, more animated performance. Vengerov is determined not to rush his fences and takes everything in his stride. It is noteworthy, in this context, that Vengerov observes the marking "slightly slower" where the going gets tough, in the virtuoso triplet section, while Josefowicz ploughs straight on, every note perfectly in place. In the Canzonetta, with her expressive shaping of the Slavonic tune and sense of mystery, she has the edge over Vengerov, and in the rondo finale, too, she has a touch more temperament.

Abbado's Berliners, as always, are in a class of their own: just listen to the way the violins ease themselves into the first note of the concerto. But the Academy of St Martin in the Fields also plays very creditably, and Marriner provides Josefowicz with a lively accompaniment responsive to her spirited reading.

Their Sibelius, however — full-blooded, almost demonic and occasionally overblown — is less successful. By chance, Cho-Liang Lin's masterly account, rapt and introspective, has reappeared in a new compilation on Sony (SXK 64578), called *Salonen conducts Sibelius*. Vengerov's coupling is a stylish, assured performance of the Glazunov's A Minor Concerto.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

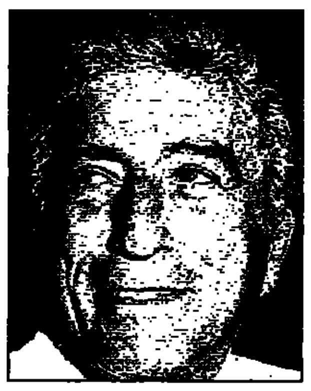
■ TONY BENNETT
Here's to the Ladies
Columbia CSK 7412★★★

THE GREAT Tony Bennett comeback shows no sign of slowing down just yet. Last year's *MTV Unplugged* album fell short of his best work but picked up a Grammy Award anyway, presumably as belated recognition of his long quest to uphold the achievements of the classic American songwriters.

In an era of unabashed mediocrity, it seems that Bennett can sneeze and still win a standing ovation. *Here's to the Ladies*, on the other hand, is the genuine article, a masterful survey of the art of song, in honour of Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Rosemary Clooney, Judy Garland and many others besides.

When Bennett essayed a similar tribute to Sinatra a few years ago, on the collection *Perfectly Frank*, the results proved a little too contrived. This time his performance is far more relaxed and authoritative; no longer straining for effect, he unfurls an enchanting sequence of ballads and torch songs.

On *People* he avoids emotional overkill with the help of restrained big-band charts by the stylish West Coast arranger Bill Holman. The opening verse of *Somewhere over the Rainbow* features one of those precarious, Garlandesque sustained notes that have become a Bennett trademark, before the band slips into a distinctive mid-tempo swing arrangement.


Bennett: authoritative

Throughout, Holman's settings provide a velvet counterpoint to the sandpaper edge that has crept into Bennett's voice with the passing years. Never fear: the faithful Ralph Sharon Trio remains on hand too, most notably on a near-definitive reading of *God Bless the Child*.

POP ALBUM

David Sinclair

■ THE ROLLING STONES
Stripped
Virgin 41040★★

MICK JAGGER is forever railing against the notion that the Rolling Stones have become part of the rock 'n' roll heritage industry. But the hard fact is that of the 14 tracks on *Stripped*, only one, *Slipping Away*, was written after 1973.

That said, the album, which explores the rootsier side of the band's repertoire, does sound remarkably vibrant, and the idea of a comparatively simple, acoustically-oriented set fits in perfectly with the mood of the post-*Unplugged* 1990s.

Recorded either live or "as live" at several small venues over the course of the group's recent world tour, it boasts sparkling performances of classics such as *Street Fighting Man*, *Wild Horses*, *Let It Bleed* and *Angie*, as well as neglected gems including *Shine a Light*, *I'm Free* and *Sweet Virginia*.

Like the group, the rinsed out blonde in *The Spider and the Fly* has put on a few years (no longer "coming on flirty" and looking about 30, she is now "common, shifty" and closer to 50), but the music still exerts a timeless appeal.

Wouldn't it be great if Jagger and Keith Richards could now start writing new songs that actually bettered these ancient favourites?

POP SINGLE

David Sinclair

■ PURESSENCE
Fire
Island 854 449★★

A MANCHESTER band with a difference, Puressence distil the kind of dislocated, midnight-black moods associated with the trip-hop brigade and harness them to a big, alternative rock-band sound.

James Mudriczki has an unusually high voice, sounding a tad like Feargal Sharkey on *Fire* but even more like Beth Gibbons of Portishead on the B-side, *You're Only Trying to Twist my Arm*.

The lyrics coil up into brooding, existential circles, while the guitars alternate between eerie calm and sepulchral blitzes of white noise. The clunky bass lines of Kevin Matthews, in particular, recall the spirit of Mancunian pioneers Joy Division, but the overall concoction is something altogether new.

The band will release their debut album in the New Year. *Fire* is an elegant taster.

★ *Worth hearing*
★★ *Worth considering*
★★★ *Worth buying*

NEW ON VIDEO: Swashbuckling in Scotland; chariot racing in ancient Rome; the birth of Beatlemania

■ ROB ROY
MGM/UA, 15, 1995
LIAM NEESON pounds the heather with sturdy legs in this ambitious but fusty epic about the 18th-century Scottish cattle drover who fights for his rights against the English aristocrats. There are sword fights to stir the blood and a juicy villain in Tim Roth's Cunningham. But you can overdose on green, rugged scenery and windy speeches about honour. Directed by Michael Caton-Jones. Available to rent.

■ BEN HUR
MGM/UA, PG, 1959
AT THE time, this edition of Lew Wallace's door-stop novel set in Christ's time was the world's most expensive film, but MGM still came out laughing, with 11 Oscars. Director William Wyler pursues the life of the Jew Ben Hur (Charlton Heston) with a stately tread, but the sea battles and chariot race have real gusto. And Miklós Rózsa's music is a concert and a half. This video release also contains the original trailer and a "making of" documentary.

■ THE BLOB
4 Front, 15, 1958
SMALL-TOWN teenagers face a unique peril from the special-effects team, a glistening lump of jelly that devours every human it meets. A cult classic: the direction is bad and the material corny, but touches in the script and Steve McQueen's performance indicate that some people, at least, were trying hard. Unusually for low-grade science-fiction, this was filmed in colour: useful for catching the blob's changing hues as it feasts on human flesh.

Windswept but long-winded: Liam Neeson strides the heather as the 18th-century Scottish hero in Michael Caton-Jones's ambitious *Rob Roy*

■ GUARDING TESS
Columbia TriStar, PG, 1994
TESS needs guarding because she is the widow of an American president; she is also Shirley MacLaine. The Secret Service agent with the job is Nicolas Cage, who wishes he were out in the field dodging bullets, not bickering over a breakfast tray. Hugh Wilson's comedy glides along pleasantly until the plot turns melodramatic. We may laugh at Tess and her guardian locked in their love-hate embrace: crying when Tess is kidnapped is a different matter. Available to rent.

■ A HARD DAY'S NIGHT
VCI, U, 1964
THE BEATLES' first feature has kept its freshness after 30 years, thanks partly to the lads themselves, and to writer Alun Owen's sharp observations about showbiz life and sudden fame. Director Richard Lester's jumping-jack cutting and zany humour spread like wildfire through British cinema in the 1960s, not always to its advantage; but here his high jinks are in perfect synch with the performers. The video also contains Pathé News footage of Beatlemania, the trailer for a 1982 American reissue, and an interview with Lester. The second Beatles film, *Help!*, is also available with similar attractions, along with a separate documentary, *The Making of A Hard Day's Night*.

■ ODETTE
Lumiere, PG, 1950
AFTER smiling and dancing through *Maytime in Mayfair*, Anna Neagle surprised audiences with her stark portrayal of this real-life secret agent of the Second World War who proved impervious to every Gestapo torture and answered all questions with "I have nothing to say". Herbert Wilcox directs with dogged sincerity, though the absence of romantic gloss shows up the cracks in his cinematic style.

GEOFF BROWN

COLLECT THREE CDS WITH *THE TIMES*: A COMPILATION OF 10 ALBUMS OF THE YEAR; HANDEL; THE RPO PLAYS HITS OF PINK FLOYD

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Starting today, and continuing next week, *The Times* is offering readers the opportunity to collect three complimentary CDs of great music on top-quality record labels. All three would make ideal Christmas gifts for any member of the family.

Today's CD offers readers a compilation of one track from each of the ten albums shortlisted for the 1995 Mercury Music Prize. The sampler compilation (details of how to get it, right) provides a fascinating snapshot of a year when a vigorous new breed of acts flourished both artistically and commercially.

David Sinclair, chief Rock critic of *The Times* writes of the CD and the awards: "It has been a landmark year for British music, and the shortlist was without doubt the strongest since the competition began. Oasis are represented on the Mercury album by their definitive song, *Live Forever*, an anthem that perfectly captures the buoyant mood of recent times. Suddenly, anything was possible, and among the small army of young, sparky groups which stormed the chart barricades in the wake of the Mancunian mop tops were Supergrass and Elastica, both of whom sailed to No.1 with their exceptional debut albums.

But when the judges came to choose the winner of the prize our attention was claimed by a more innovative strand of music. The final discussions focused on three acts, all from the South West of England, and all boasting a strong female voice. They were PJ Harvey, represented on the CD by the typically arch yet aching lament, *C'Mon Billy*; Tricky, whose vocalist partner, Martine, provides the perfect foil for the Bristolian producer/rapper's mindbending sounds and visions; and Portishead, whose spectral album, *Dummy*, remains the perfect expression of the British trance/dance phenomenon trip hop. After much impassioned debate, *Dummy* narrowly emerged as the winner.

Oasis feature on our first CD with their song, Live Forever which stormed the charts

However, the beauty of the Mercury Music Prize is that it exists to celebrate all areas of British and Irish music, not just the most trend-setting or obviously popular acts of the moment. What a pleasure, then, to be able to recognise a veteran such as Van Morrison, not for a "lifetime's achievement" but simply for releasing one of the year's best albums. With its marvellous harmonies, chipper horn arrangements and heartwarming lyric, the title track of *Days Like This* is Celtic soul at its finest. Pure magic.

Another aim of the Mercury Music Prize is to guide listeners to excellent music from genres they might not otherwise consider listening to. Just to have on the same album an excerpt from Scottish composer James MacMillan's epic choral work, *Seven Last Words From The Cross*, rubbing shoulders with *Original* by club culture/dance specialists Leftfield is an enlightenment in itself.

But for me, the great discovery this year was trumpeter Guy Barker's *Into The Blue*, a tremendously entertaining and accessible jazz album which has alerted me to a taste for traditionally-styled, melodic bop I didn't know I had. The excerpt selected from *Oh Mr Rex!* with its swinging, marching band beat has to be one of the most infectious, toe-tapping horn riffs ever.

David Sinclair was one of the ten judges of the 1995 Mercury Music Prize.

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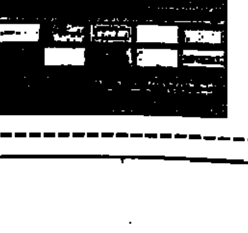

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EFFERVESENT passionate, vivacious, affectionate, fun loving female, 35yrs. Tall, very attractive with a good figure. Seeks tall handsome romantic male with good sense of humour for lasting relationship. Please send photo London/Surrey Bx 1159

FASHIONABLE, Professional, Continental Blonde, 5'7, green eyes, 136 lbs., 40, Postgraduate, Trilingual (German is mother-tongue), divorced, financially independent, seeks Soulmate. Any area. Please reply with photo to Box No 1762.

FEMALE slim 37, 5'9, sporty (tennis and golf) good fun, enjoys long walks in the hills, the sea and evenings with friends, wishes to meet someone kind and genuine with an interesting life. Box No 1720.

GENTLEMEN 35-50 are you like me, single? I am a woman looking to enjoy a more interesting social life. If you live in the West Midlands, why not write. Please Reply to Box No 1552.

GENUINE, classy, v. attractive blonde, 38, with all the right attributes, seeks charismatic professional to complete the story. All letters answered. Please Reply to Box No 1701.

GORGEOUS Woman writer (41) seeks sane successful soft centred man for love and laughter (London area). Box No 1437.

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MEET SOMEONE THROUGH THE TIMES

Source: NRS Jan-June 94

LADIES

GOOD looking extrovert woman with style, WLTM civilised man age 45-65 interested in art, books, music and conversation. London/SE area. Write with photo please to Box No 1836.

HAMPSHIRE Area - Mid 40s lady with young outlook seeking caring, trustworthy non-smoking gentleman for love/friendship/companionship to share good/simple things in life 5'4", hazel eyes, mid length fair hair, said to be attractive. Very caring, loyal, affectionate, kind hearted. Photograph would be appreciated if poss. Box 1768.

HEARING impaired? Warm attractive lady, hearing aid user. WLTM soulmate, 58+, well educated and caring London based Box No 1458.

HEREFORD slim, attractive, 5'8, prof lady (youthful 50) adores good food, wine, dancing, music, travel, theatre and walking. Seeks similar energetic, gentle, caring man to put the fun back into life and share trip to Mayan Mexico Box 1624

HUSSY Tall, curvy, intelligent, 37, longs for adventure and excitement with kind, tall, intelligent, interesting man, 30-40. Photo appreciated but long letter better to Box No 1534

IS THERE a professional gent well travelled, cultured, 60's, interesting who WLTM an elegant, slim, vibrant lady, educated, travelled, musical. Many interests Based Hants. Ltr/Photo please. Box No 1708

JEWISH vivacious blonde, very attractive, romantic, tactile, no ties, seeks a fun-loving, sincere, successful, n/s, Jewish guy, 42-48 for love and laughter. Photo appreciated Box No 1149.

KENT/South London, sporty, slim, prof. female, early 40ish, WLTM a tall, n/s, successful male, GSOH, 40-50 with no hang-ups or young children. To liven up your social/romantic life, please reply with recent photo to Box No 1671.

LADY sixties, wishes to meet gentleman, 70 plus, who respects integrity, honesty and good manners Reply to Box 1610

LIVELY attractive prof lady, eclectic interests. WLTM tall, athletic, genuine prof man 34-44, for caring, sharing and to bring sparkle back into life. (Midlands Based) Photo and phone no to Box No 1623

LONDON based (SW), very attractive lady, 49, wants the incentive and help from gorgeous gentleman to loose a little weight - aerobics, weights, walking, other suggestions?! Children growing up. Christmas season looming. Lover of music especially Bach, dance and Gene Pitney!! N/s, GSOH. photo and telephone number please. Box No 1400.

LONDON - Attractive blue eyed long legged blonde 22, with a young baby, looking for fun days and nights, possible romance. Plse send photo, all letters replied to. Box 1471.

LONDON based bubbly blonde, 45 years old seeks companionship of amusing and interesting man, varied interests. Please Reply to Box No 1530.

MANCHESTER based prof. 31, recently moved from London, attractive, GSOH, enjoys keeping fit, WLTM witty, attractive, intelligent man, 32-40 who doesn't take life too seriously, for fun, and possible romance. Photo & letter to Box 1628.

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MEN Why call long distance? Close Encounters Sussex, Kent, Surrey, London, has an abundance of eligible women. Call free 0500 141 121.

MIDLAND based interior designer, down to earth, tall, slim and gorgeous, enjoys sports and having fun, WLTM tall, handsome, n/s man 45+ for happy times. Box No 1348.

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ME: very attractive, 42 (looks 32), intelligent, truly warm personality, slim, blonde, 5'6, sporty, (tennis, skiing) terrific companion, well travelled, loves cooking, dining out London based. No ties. Unexpectedly home alone. You, warm, sincere 40-55, 5'8"+, GSOH, relaxed, comfortable lifestyle, generous, successful and have no problems making a commitment. Please Reply to Box No 1689.

NORTHANTS Men Stop. One phone call can introduce you to over 300 stylish ladies from 25-75. No. 1 personal introduction service. Call 01536 524440

PUBLIC SCHOOL good looking lady late 50's WLTM well educated man London/SW England. Reply to Box No 1774

SCOTTISH Widow aged 49 marooned in Bedfordshire looking for a Scotsman with the same love of Scotland to correspond and be my friend. Box 1771

SHAKESPEARE Addict. 40's lady, very attractive, slim, independent, central London, WLTM public school theatre going gentleman. Box 1368

SLIM, very attractive lady, happy, sensitive, intelligent seeks good looking, positive n/s man 45-55. Mid/South Sussex. Please Reply to Box No 1688

SOUTH WEST Wales. Welsh speaking lady 51, n/s, working, needing someone very special in her life. Seeks interesting man for culture and cuddles Please Reply to Box No 1659

STOCKING filler wanted for Christmas. Attractive, professional lady, separated, 47, outgoing and stylish is looking to fill those lonely dark nights with Gentleman, 47-54, tall, outgoing, fun to be with & humorous. My interests are Antique toys, crafts, music & theatre. London/SE Area. Photo ensures reply. Box 1684

TALL, erudite, well spoken gent, 48-54 sought by slim, energetic professional lady, mid 40s who is well travelled with myriad interests for social encounters. Hereford based. Photo appreciated. Please Reply Box 1680

TALL slim, attractive lady, 48, seeks fun loving, romantic gent who enjoys travel, arts, good conversation. Surrey. Photo please. Reply to Box No 1405.

THEY say life begins at 40 I've just got there and I'd love a solvent prof man to show me this is true, I'm an n/s, GSOH 5'4" attractive, prof girl who works long hours but will travel, I love the theatre, Rock music dining out and keep fit. Photo appreciated. Cheshire. Box No 1692.

TOUR Guide of London wanted. 30s-40s, 6ft, fun, sincere, attractive intell/prof. Gent-pref Leo/Capr. To show me historical buildings, arts, good wine bars etc. I am 36 yrs, attr. sincere, fun, world travelled/lived single prof. lady of style. Photo if poss. Reply to Box 1673.

VERY tall Gemini, 5'9, feminine female, 50s, gregarious with a mirriad of interests, travel, sea and countryside, swimming, dancing, wining and dining, learning golf, music and the arts, used to the good life, needs an attractive, intelligent, tall, caring guy to complete her lifestyle. Please Reply Box 1663.

VIBRANT sexy 45 year old woman would like to meet special man, someone who is successful with style, wit and a GSOH. Jewish or non Jewish, 40-55. Photo essential. Please Reply to Box No 1584.

VIVACIOUS daring and very attractive. Female 31 seeks fellow intelligent professional. Photo essential. Box No 1576.

WANTED a very wealthy man to spoil and be a friend to an attractive, blonde haired, slim, 45 year old woman. Please Reply to Box No 1641.

WANTED! Real man into Fast Music, Cars, Football, Fun: By successful woman, 31, North West. Pls Reply Box No 1681.

WEST Country. Lissom lively lady, slim, cultured, blue eyed blonde music lover. Needs intelligent, self assured, tall, dominant, early 40s man with integrity for harmony. Photo essential. Box No 1775.

LADIES

WHERE have all the unattached peace/prof men gone - 40-48 - honest sincere solvent GSOH n/s! Me blonde 5'6" slim 40s for laughter - affection - c/walks - ski - music - good food/wine, friendship poss romance Junc. 9 M25 area. Genuine letters only. Photo apprec. ALA Box No 1766.

WHERE IS that genuine, caring, charismatic country gent, 55/60ish, who can bring a sparkle into a Cotswold lady's christmas? Photo appreciated Please Reply to Box No 1475

WIDOW, 42, WLTM a kind sincere chap 37-55 for tennis and socialising etc. I'm fun loving, solvent, public school educated and like good food and wine, gardening, swimming and cycling. Hampshire/Surrey/Berkshire/London Letter and photo please to Box No 1457.

WONDERFUL job, no life. Is there a dashing white knight, healthy, wealthy & wise to rescue this 40 something Damsel. Photo appreciated. Please reply to box No 1709

WORDLY witty man sought by Sloane Ranger living in East Anglia. I am a slim blonde of 49 with literary interests in need of good male company Please reply with photo to Box 1413.

YOUNG 50, Japanese, graduate businesswoman, pretty, divorced, sociable, 5'3, affectionate, interests: music, theatre, conversation seeks graduate, wealthy professional or businessman, lively for committed relationship. London. Photo appreciated Box 1646.

GENTLEMEN

A BEAUTIFUL lady living in London, 36-44 that wants to enjoy the good life, dresses well, is as beautiful inside as she is outside, uncomplicated and has no children. Mission Impossible? Well I can only hope I am 6'3, slim, relaxed, affluent, chase the sun and have no problems making a commitment. Photo please. Box No 1540.

ABLE, Athletic, handsome, n/s mid 40s seeks that special someone to cook for, care for and caress. Photo app. (London) Please Reply to Box No 1676

A CHALLENGE to ladies!!, why write to one, when 1 phone call introduces you to over 300 attractive, stylish men 25-69 all live West Midlands. We guarantee you will join when you see the photos. Elite, The No. One - others follow. 0121 386 2234.

AFFECTIONATE good looking, accomplished, pharmacist, 5'10", slim, youthful, 40's, humorous, caring, reliable with much to offer an attractive, slim, sensuous, professional female 30's-early 40's with warmth, GSOH and joise de vivre for sharing long term relationship. Thames Valley/Hants/W Sussex. Plse reply with recent photo Box 1427

AMIABLE academic man 46, seeks artistic lady to share music, romance and loving relationship in central London. Please Reply to Box No 1138.

AN easy going London male 47 GSOH WLTM woman 30-45. Please Reply to Box No 1463

ANYONE for tennis, bridge, golf or cultural events? Gentleman, 50ish, London based, would like to hear from lady sharing these interests. Photo please. Reply to Box No 1765

A slim and shapely younger woman sort by affluent retired early 60 businessman, 5'11", n/s, fit, handsome, bald, romantic, private pilot. Dorset/Hants. Box 1391

ATHENS temp based. Tall, fit, late 30's grad., has many interests except a lady. Please Reply to Box No 1458

ATTRACTIVE and successful Surrey based entrepreneur, 44, tall, extremely fit, seeks affectionate, intelligent, very attractive slim lady to share beautiful surroundings, lovely holidays and enjoy life with a romantic and happy person, age 25-40. Please write and enclose photo & phone no. Box 1334.

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GENTLEMEN

A tall dark, goodlooking, consultant physician in late 40's seeks slim, tallish, highly attractive lady in her 30's or 40's who is also intelligent, vivacious and fun. Possible long term commitment. I love travel, theatre, restaurants, tennis and cosy evenings at home. I own a private medical clinic and also luxury house overlooking rolling downs in North Surrey near London. Extrovert and warm I am, stuffy doctor I am not. Photo appreciated and returned unless you are very gorgeous when you will need to meet me to get it back. Please Reply to Box No 1656

A Top Grade entrepreneur, young fit 42 year old Englishman loves Travel, exploring visits regularly different countries including UK (Lives abroad at the moment) seeks woman with wit & panache who enjoys visiting exotic places/winter or watersports or any wild adventure. (Good conversation will do too!). Reply to Box No 1734 with telephone & photo please.

ATTRACTIVE, slim, tall, virile, solvent broadminded male (44) with own business, interested in classical music, restaurants and the inland waterways, WLTM a like minded, very attractive younger lady 25-40 for friendship and fun. Box No 1672.

ATTRACTIVE male, London, 36, professional and solvent, loves good wine in good company! Care to join me? Refined and enchanting female 28-34. (Photo appreciated.) Please Reply to Box No 1750.

ATTRACTIVE masculine, professional man, 47, virile, adventurous, seeks very attractive lady for rewarding friendship. Please Reply to Box No 1344

AUTUMN MIST country walks, cosy talks, Hampshire man, 466, seeks lady to share these and more. Photo please. Please Reply to Box No 1612

A writer & journalist, 32, slim, fit, 1 75m, with glasses, nice looking, Asian. I am studying at present Would like to meet a pretty white female, single or divorced (student welcome), under 30, with warm and honest personality, for real love, travelling round the world. London, Manchester or anywhere, Photo (returned). Please Reply to Box No 1613.

BIG strong phlegmatic dentist 42, GSOH, seeks attractive, erudite younger lady to share and enjoy the future. If snuggling up by the fire with a bottle of wine and an old movie, weekends away and sleeping late appeal to you then please reply with a recent photo. Box No 1564.

BIRMINGHAM West Mids. Are there attractive intelligent women who value independence but want involvement? Fit aware tolerant male grad 64, varied interests, conversation, arts, jazz, hillwalking etc. Seeks grad/prof fit, slim, tallish/tall free spirited, broad minded sensual woman 48-58, friend/lover. Photo returned. Please Reply to Box No 1561.

CARING CHAP 48, funny, personable, does a decent traditional lunch but would really appreciate a lady who could make lump free gravy; share comfortable lifestyle and reciprocate commitment. Enjoys concerts, films, books, dining out, relaxing strolls etc. Based J16 M4, can travel. Please Reply to Box No 1326

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civilised Social Groups for the unattached aged 30'ish to 50'ish contact Howard or Jan 01495 75 53 09 noon to 7pm any day. Fax 01495 759046.

CENTRAL London mid 50s gentleman, tall, presentable and successful. WLTM a classy and assertive lady for fun and friendship. Reply Box No 1760.

GRADUATE 50+ who plays tennis, skis, loves opera & France. Please Reply to Box No 1770

CHARMING generous, successful businessman, early 50s, 6ft tall, slightly over weight (but working on it), enjoys socialising, horse racing (owner), winter and sun sports, lives M4 corridor, seeks attractive, slim, vivacious, 30-45 year old lady who enjoys countryside, for fun and romance. Photo guarantees reply. Box No 1394.

DORSET male (not Carne Abbass Giant), 49 (not neolithic) divorced, seeks the woman of his dreams to fan the smoldering embers in his heart and to enjoy the good things in life. Carpe Diem Please Reply Box 1682

EARLY - RETIRED Managing Director, West Yorkshire, widower, 5'10", language graduate, biographer, aerobics enthusiast, political animal, crossword addict seeks trim, energetic, educated, down to earth, caring lady in her 50's with plenty of time to enjoy classical music, opera, theatre, walking in the Dales, regular overseas travel and each others company. Phone number more important than photo. Reply Box 1632

ENERGETIC happy caring Grandpa. Knocking on 70. Fit. Engaged part time professional work WLTM lively, lovely arts loving slim lady 60s (younger lady could well apply) for companionship and pursuits usually enjoyed in tandem Opera, concerts, walking, cultural weekends and holidays. 5'5 or less. Essex/East London. Box 1616.

ENGLISH gentleman, mature and well travelled, seeks gorgeous, educated, near/far Eastern lady 30-40 for cultural companionship and romance as the autumnal leaves fall in Regents Park. Photograph appreciated Box No 1633

FIFTY and on my own BUT good looking, solvent, GSOH, and into sport, arts, children, travel, good living and lots of cuddles. WLTM London based, attractive, independent n/s lady. Photo appreciated.Please Reply to Box No 1553

FORMER seafarer and businessman, successfully early retd mid 50s, well able to fend for himself but looking for crew for a ship shape inland berth with good food and quality grog in SE. Ladies who are n/s, trim and free to roam might like to check the ships master before signing on. Box No 1522.

GENUINE successful company chairman, 42, 6ft, handsome/rugged, non pretentious, fun to be with, loves children, seeks balanced lady to complete the picture. All letters answered Please Reply to Box No 1702.

GLOBETROTTER quiet, 37y, n/s, likes wildlife, mountains, foreign travel, nature, seeking young beauty (20-38) with similar interests. SE area, photo please. Reply to Box No 1572.

GOOD Morning and I hope you are well. Let me introduce myself. I am G, a busy, successful, tall, CEO, who is in his mid 30s, single, devilishly handsome (so his neices say), with a kind heart and and twinkle in his eye. I live 'far from the madding crowd' in the heart of the south I would like to be introduced to an intelligent, very slim, proud and very pretty young lady up to 28 years of age. I would be most pleased to accept an introduction by mum, grandma or an older brother, or friend. Yours honourably. Reply to Box No 1784.

GRAD 27, M, solvent, single, varied interests, seeks intelligent, funny, spontaneous female companion to share laughter, good times and possible romance in Glocs. area. Think we could meet? Reply Box 1641

HANDSOME articulate, intelligent, antipodean rogue with joyous outlook, late 40s, golfer, international businessman, divorced, own hair, nearly all own teeth. Can still play 37 holes and dance all night. Own house, flash car etc etc. WLTM intelligent, articulate, slim, attractive, life loving real woman up to 45 years old, who likes wining (not whining) dining, country, quiet, understands golf and also likes sport. Experts in DIY and gardening may also apply. No tubs or gold diggers. Photo and good letter please. ALA. M4 jnc 13-18 & West London. Box 1644.

HANDSOME guy 35, successful, great personality seeks attractive lady, 24-32 to explore life and have fun. Oxon/Berks/Bucks area. Box No 1718.

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GENTLEMEN

INTELLIGENT, caring, tall, solvent, 47 year old male. Likes music, reading, walking, theatre Sense of humour important. Located in North Essex. Looking for someone to share a romantic future with. Please write to Box No 1469.

JUST looking for a wonderful woman, bright, with a sparkle. City lawyer, 30, London area. Photo please. Box No 1724.

KENT MAN 49, 6ft 2' works London, own business, loves champagne, cooking good food (you need never cook again) theatre, travel, music, walking the dogs, log fires and country life. Seeks slim, petite lady, under 46, must have VGSOH for honest, caring relationship with lots of TLC and fun. Please Reply with phone no. Box 1424

KENT Young 50, attractive, fit, kind, attentive, amusing. Seeks intelligent, warm, very attractive glamorous lady, 35-45. Fly with me. Please reply with photo to Box 1666

LADIES Why call long distance? Close Encounters Wales, Bath, Bristol, Swindon, has an abundance of eligible men. Call free on 0800 141 141.

LADIES Why call long distance? Close Encounters Sussex, Kent, Surrey, London, has an abundance of eligible men. Call free on 0500 141 121.

LONDON BASED Banker, 51 years young, seperated, grown up children, too busy to frequent wine bars to look for Mrs Right, WLTM attractive lady with GSOH for fun, friendship and perhaps more Please reply with photo to Box No 1745

MAD carefree but successful 34 year old male, 6ft, sporty with no ties, considered handsome with a roguish smile, seeks fun loving female with no ties and plenty of spirit. I am Cheshire based but area and age not prime consideration. Photo appreciated. Box No 1489.

MUCH travelled successful businessman, tall, 6'3, considered good looking, 50 years old, very fast wit and fun to be around. Minimum baggage. London based. Would like to here from truly attractive ladies up to 40 Photo essential Box No 1597.

MY Cancerian darling, public school lady, me same sign and background. Longing for you. Me, 60s, you I hope 45-55, SOH, n/s, maximum 5'6 Please may I have your photo. Please Reply to Box No 1587.

N.E. 6' Rangy, charming, youthful, energetic, articulate professional 38, who usually reads the Guardian, and whose friends threaten (but fail) to fix him up seeks good-looking, slim, intelligent, irreverent woman 35 or less for something passionate, amusing and serious. Photo and fountain-penned letter appreciated. Box 1532.

NORTHANTS Ladies Stop. One phone call can introduce you to over 300 stylish men from 25-75. No. 1 personal introduction service. Call 01536 524440.

OPTIMISTIC, easy going, lively, intelligent & thinking grad, 35, wide interests. Urban, but country loving, avid diver, keen traveller, wide interests. Seeks positive, attractive, relaxed n/s girl, like outlook to explore life. Please Reply to Box No 1629.

OSTENSIBLY James Fox: really James Dean with James Garner tendencies, own velvet voice, impish smile invites pouty lipped, saucer eyed, voluptuous vamp with Helen Mirren mind (ono) for sharing his 56th Xmas et seqq. (West Lond). Box 1161.

PART time lover, friend, male? I live in London, you live in the country, let's spend weekends together in London and or the country. Golf, tennis, good food, theatre, movies etc. You: very attractive, 38-45, great figure, good personality, very feminine, stylish. I am the male equivalent and tall. You won't be disappointed, the sky's the limit. Reply to Box No 1714.

PETER PAN 50., n/s, fit, active and adventurous who is more at home in a wet suit than pinstripes seeks Wendy 38+ for happiness. Charty letter please Reply to Box No 1690

POLISH background, single gentleman, 39, enjoys travelling, dancing, walks, cinema, wishes to meet a sincere lady with similar interests. Box No 1421.

PROFESSIONAL male (47), lives Bucks, works central London, interested in wining, dining travel walking seeks slim lady 30+ with similar interests. Please Reply to Box No 1677.

SEEKING the right cultured lady wanting to combine professional life with raising a family with similar successful n/s batchelor aged 50 who lives and works in central London. Please Reply to Box No 1773

SHY slim single gentleman 36 seeks large lady 25-55 for fun and romance. Norfolk/E. Anglia. Box No 1527.

SINCERE Slim, man 51, well travelled, wide interest, WLTM female, n/s, slim, intelligent, caring, honest, homely, WSOH, under 38 in Essex/London. Photo Please. Reply Box 1683

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SMART successful sporty generous, GSOH, fun loving, bashful Scot, 39, living in Sussex wants to enjoy life with someone with reciprocal qualities. Looking forward to Christmas and a new year Reply to Box 1649.

THE CAT also needs someone very special! Very genuine professional 42, attractive outgoing and sincere, extremely successful, enjoying diving, motor sport, flying etc seeks one seriously pretty young lady with style and humour to love us both forever. Yorkshire based, photo please. Reply Box 1696

UNCONVENTIONAL Lawyer 38, down to earth, fit, West London based, allegedly attractive, loves sailing and the sea, cross - examination and the law and living every minute of life seeks unique, handsome, non-pretentious, unselfish woman 28+ whose soul is drawn from the salt of the earth for honest, loving, caring, sharing, hot, imaginative relationship Photo and letter please. Box No 1488

VERY HANDSOME professional man 34, tall, fit, slim, dark hair, green eyes, warm smile and usually very modest. Educated, honest, friendly, romantic but tend to work too hard seeks distraction from a lovely lady who is also looking for lasting romance. London/Surrey/Hampshire/Anywhere. Please Reply to Box No 1736

WEST Country gentleman (successful) with affluent lifestyle who loves to over indulge requires urgently slim, n/s lady (30-40) to control his appetite permanently, but not too much as naughty is nice. NB this is a one off offer so please reply with fullest details and photograph now! Box No 1433.

WEST LONDON man 40's, eligible, humorous, good looking, enjoys fruit growing, gardening, litrature, history and heritage. WLTM romantic, slim, sensuous, attractive lady, in West London area. Box 1586

WILD man (hidden under Oxbridge education, lots silver hair) WLTM woman cyclist with aesthetic tastes for earthy and ethereal trysts and travel. Please Reply to Box No 1868.

ZAP me, colourful character, 40s, south Bucks based seeks attractive, sensuous playful female (30ish) who reads these columns backwards. Please Reply to Box No 1729.

HEALER - artist - professional, 38 years, tall, ruggedly handsome, athletic, ecclectic, kind, tactile, humorous seeks n/s very attractive, fit bodied, spiritual, creative, loving female, 28+ (race, colour unimportant) for monogomous deeply loving relationship. Photo/phone please. ALA. Box No 1310.

HIGHLY attractive, fit, slim, 46, charming, artistic, well educated, intelligent and cultured. Solvent, positive, with strength of mind, hence seeking elusive who will answer to above. London. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 1220.

HUGS & humour without hubris for independent lady 35 to 43 in London/SE. Me allegedly attractive, secure and sometimes spontaneous. Photo plus please to Box No 1123.

I LIVE and work in the beautiful windswept West Country I am a 36yrs old very handsome (for you to determine) tall, Company Chief Executive who is successful, single, spirited yet very private. I seek a proud, pretty, perceptive slim young lady to have dinner with me. Who are you, where do you wish to meet and why? Reply Box No 1264

INDIAN merchant banker, 45, good lifestyle, looking to share life with warm, sporty attractive lady with GSOH. Please Reply to Box No 0852.

INTERESTING well to do, presentable late 50s, loves travelling, tennis, golf, dining out, country weekends. WLTM attractive sporty lady 40-50ish with GSOH, nationality immaterial, based London. Please Reply to Box No 0928.

JAPANESE 25, male postgraduate, warm, 5'6, loves cooking, arts and travelling. Seeks 20-35 female for friendship/romance. Photo please, answer assured. E Scotland. Reply Box No 1300

LADIES Stop writing to one man, when one phone call can introduce you to over 300 stylish men from 23-75. If you live, West Mids, Warks, Staffs, Shrops call 0121 386 2234. Northants, Leics, Cambs call 01536 524440. 99% of ladies join, you won't believe it until you see. Elite Introductions.

LANCS/MCHSTR Unpretentious, n/s, caring solicitor, 43, seeks younger prof lady for dining in/out, strolls, relaxing chat and the other simple things of life. Reply to Box No 0903

LAWYER (38) in search of his ideal brief, a tall, slim, attractive lady to share notes over dinner, likes: cinema, theatre, eating out, weekends away and travel. London based. Please Reply to Box No 0937.

LAWYER in love? Not right now! You change that? Me 28, handsome and definitely romantic. Warm and cultured loving too! You write we meet. 24-32, Photo and Phone No. North/Midlands. Box No 1222.

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BRITAIN: A mushroom hunt in Sussex; on the trail of the resting place of Pocahontas in Kent

Beware of the fungi to die for

David Blundell gets advice on how to identify edible mushrooms from Brigitta Tee

"Eat that," said the stern Germanic voice, "and you could die." It was a piece of advice I was minded not to ignore. Brigitta Tee knows a great deal about things lurking in the woods which are likely to bring you to an untimely end.

Mrs Tee, a self-taught mycologist (expert on fungi), was, with her husband John, conducting my wife and me on a mushroom hunt in the woods of West Sussex. We were fellow guests at the Angel Hotel in Midhurst, and the deadly little brown number in question was a Death Cap (*Amanita phalloides*), almost identical, to the untrained eye, to the other perfectly palatable specimens which would be prepared in the hotel kitchen before the day was out.

The couple are the directors of Mrs Tee's Wild Mushrooms, a company which sprang from her interest in the colourful fungi she and her children saw growing near their home in the New Forest. "There were loads and loads of them," she said, "and at that time nobody was picking them. I knew that many were edible because I had seen them for sale in food stores in Berlin [she is a native of southern Germany]."

There followed a display of entrepreneurship which would bring a glow to Sir John Harvey-Jones. Within weeks she had won orders for New Forest mushrooms from half a dozen of London's leading restaurateurs and now, three years later, the company is on course for a turnover of £300,000 next year.

Our early morning fungi hunt was the high point of a sybaritic weekend at the Angel, a former coaching inn, much of it dating from the 15th century. Peter Crawford-Rolt bought it three and a half years ago from the brewers George Gale, of Horndean, and after six months of frenzied restoration (involving in part the conversion of the locally famous Midhurst Steam Brewery) reopened it as a country hotel.

> ‘The deadly little brown number looked palatable’

The building is large — there are 21 bedrooms, with more planned — and falls into distinct eras. The street frontage is Georgian, the rest an unlikely *mélange* of Tudor, Elizabethan and Regency.

Outside are lawns, a kitchen garden and newly-laid flowerbeds, giving onto open countryside and a view of the romantic golden ruins of Cowdray House. Close by is Cowdray Park, playground of the polo fraternity, which uses the Angel as a local during the summer.

Perhaps it is the proximity of such serious wealth which encourages a naïf pretentiousness among some of the Angel's diners. During dinner a group of middle-aged yachtsmen at an adjacent table indulged in a bout of competitive braying about the size of their spinnakers, while two tables away a young man held long, intense conversations on his mobile phone through three courses. Perhaps the news that Eighties exhibitionism is over has not yet reached this corner of Sussex.

None of this, however, detracts from the quality of the food. This is serious cooking and nothing has been allowed to slip since Jonathan Meades named it as one of his favoured restaurants in *The Times*.

I chose coarse duck sausage with pink peppercorns, and brochette of monkfish with scallops and black-eyed beans followed by a selection of French and English cheeses.

Interesting discoveries included Gospel Green, a local handmade Cheddar-Cheshire cross and Exmoor Blue, a full-fat creamy cheese made from the milk of Jersey cows.

Service is relaxed and unobtrusive. Meals and drinks arrive on time and the telephone in reception never rings more than twice.

Midhurst is a prime location for touring the South Downs. As well as the esoteric delights of polo, a sporting enthusiast will find Goodwood just down the road and a choice of golf courses. The area is positively infested with museums, fine houses and historic monuments — certainly more than you could take in in a single weekend. Do not miss Uppark, the National Trust's restored treasure, Petworth House and park and Arundel Castle.

And there is mushroom collecting. The redoubtable Mrs Tee may not always be on hand to tell you the difference betweeen a Death Cap, a Shaggy Ink Cap and a Jew's Ear, but a suitable, though less entertaining substitute, would be a copy of *Mushrooms and other fungi of Great Britain and Europe*, by Roger Phillips (Pan, £13.99).

DAVID BLUNDELL

- *The author was a guest of* the *Angel Hotel, North Street, Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 9DN (01730 812421; fax 01730 815928). Rooms from £65 to £130, all with bathroom and TV. Lunch and dinner every day. Brasserie £45, restaurant £50 plus.*
- *Mrs Tee's Wild Mushrooms, Gorse Meadow, Sway Road, Lymington, Hants SO41 8LR. For information on weekend seminars on the fungi of Britain call 01590 673354; fax 01590 673336.*

Dose of Dickens and Disney

GRAVESEND is not on many tourist routes, except for lovers of Charles Dickens or General Gordon. But a Hollywood blockbuster has suddenly changed all that. For here is the final resting place of Pocahontas — the newly Disneyfied "Red Indian" princess, whose story is currently Britain's number one box-office film attraction.

The number of visitors to the Kent town has rocketed by 300 per cent in the past two months. Half the shops in the town appear to be selling Pocahontas products. You can even buy a Pocahontas advent calendar in Woolworth's.

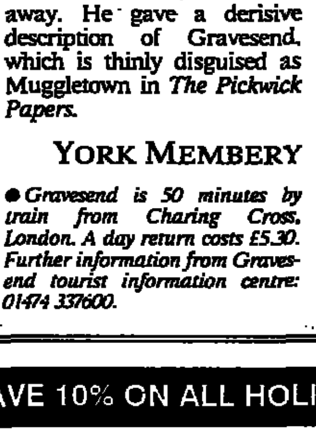
The daughter of an Indian chieftain, she was born 400 years ago and is famous for befriending the first English settlers and saving their leader, John Smith, from being executed by her father. The princess went on to marry another settler before sailing to England where she was presented to James I. But she fell ill on her voyage home, was taken ashore at Gravesend and died aged 22 in 1617, probably from tuberculosis.

The landing stage where she was brought ashore is still there, opposite the Three Daws, a 500-year-old inn once used by smugglers and men escaping the press gang.

But any Pocahontas pilgrimage should start at St George's Church, a handsome structure in the town centre. In the adjoining Pocahontas Gardens stands a statue of the princess, presented by the governor of Virginia in 1858. The church's two memorial windows featuring the princess were donated by the grandly named Society of Colonial Dames of America in 1914. Disney is to give £9,000 towards floodlighting the church.

Traditionally, Pocahontas was mother of her "country", a symbol of Anglo-American friendship and the first native American to be voluntarily baptised, though she was being held hostage by colonialists at the time.

More recently, she has become a symbol of the burgeoning Native American movement, which has demanded that her bones be returned to her homeland. The problem is, nobody knows exactly where she is buried, although it is thought to be close to the altar.



The Pocahontas statue

And Gravesend's other attractions? General Gordon strengthened the New Tavern Fort before going to the Sudan, and Charles Dickens wrote *Great Expectations* in Gads Hill Place, five miles away. He gave a derisive description of Gravesend, which is thinly disguised as Muggletown in *The Pickwick Papers*.

YORK MEMBERY

- *Gravesend is 50 minutes by train from Charing Cross, London. A day return costs £5.30. Further information from Gravesend tourist information centre: 01474 337600.*

CHRISTMAS TIPS

☐ Ettington Park (01789 450123) in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, will be hosting a masked ball and ghost tours in their "haunted" grounds. Parlour maids in Victorian period costume and liveried footman will serve. Full-board prices start at £175 per night, for a three-night minimum over Christmas and two nights over New Year.

☐ The Lancaster House Hotel (01524 844822), Lancaster, celebrates Christmas with its annual Black Pudding Hurling Competition and a six-course luncheon. Three-night packages starting on December 24 cost £269.

☐ Father Christmas will be arriving in a Victorian horsedrawn carriage at Lucknam Park (01225 74277), Colerne, near Bath, on Christmas Day. Tickets for the New Year's Eve Gala Ball cost £125, which includes the hire of Louis XIV costumes. Four-night breaks start at £855, based on two people sharing, including meals and entertainments.

☐ The Youth Hostels Association (01727 845 047) has arranged a three-day "medieval" Christmas break at St. Briavels Castle in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire. The Norman castle comes complete with a moat, dungeons, jesters, valiant knights and fair maidens. Full board costs £100.

☐ Santa Claus will be riding the Great Western Railway steam train at the Didcot Railway Centre, Oxfordshire, (01235 817200) on December 23 and 24. Price for adults and children, including a present from Santa, £5. OAPs £3.50.

☐ There will be feasting and merrymaking at Hampton Court Palace (0181-781 9500), December 27 to January 1. Visitors can watch spit-roasted meats being prepared in the Tudor tradition by authentically dressed cooks, who will also demonstrate Tudor sugarwork and sculpture. Admission to the Palace is £7.50 (£5.60 concessions, £4.90 children).

☐ The Crown in Framlingham, Suffolk, a White Hart hotel (0345 543543), is offering a Peace and Quiet Christmas break, December 24-26, with good food and fine wine and no intrusive "musak" and "jolly singalongs", at £109 per person per night.

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS · A TIMES COMPETITION

COLLECT 30 TOKENS FOR A CHANCE TO WIN £20,000 CASH FOR AN 80-DAY HOLIDAY OF A LIFETIME — PLUS SAVE 10% ON ALL HOLIDAYS FEATURED

Win a maiden voyage cruise

Today and every day until the end of December, *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* are offering readers the exclusive chance to win one of 80 holidays for two. There is also an opportunity to win £20,000 cash for an 80-day holiday of a lifetime.

Our series of 80 holidays around the world includes safaris to Africa, tours to South America, India and the Far East, adventurous trips to out-of-the-way places, and luxury breaks in some of the best resorts, worth more than £150,000 in total. So far readers have won exciting holidays to Zimbabwe, Kenya and Botswana, Brazil, Chile and Belize, Sri Lanka, India and the Caribbean.

Today's prize is the first of a series of luxury cruises to Greece, Turkey, Russia, Cyprus, Egypt, Germany and Italy. They have been arranged by Swan Hellenic, who have 20 years' experience organising cruises that combine travel with an opportunity to learn more about the world's heritage.

All their cruises are accompanied by guest speakers chosen for their ability to captivate and entertain, and their expertise will help to enhance your appreciation of the sights you see.

Ashore, optional guided excursions are included in each itinerary for those who wish to pursue their interest in a subject still further.

10 PER CENT DISCOUNTS

Readers can also enjoy an exclusive ten per cent discount on today's cruise with Swan Hellenic on the maiden voyage of the *Minerva* and all holidays featured next week. Brochure prices start at £1,670, per person, which is inclusive of flights, accommodation, meals, sightseeing excursions, on board entertainment and all tips.

Taormina, Sicily, one of the many sites you will visit accompanied by a guide

The benefit of our 10 per cent exclusive discount applies to all the holidays featured during our 80-day holiday competition. Many of these discounted tours include five-star accommodation, superb meals, excursions led by qualified guides, safaris and sightseeing.

There are a number of tour operators collaborating on this Around the World adventure and to get brochures for any of the holidays featured in previous weeks, you should write to: *The Times* Brochure Service, PO Box 9, Dunoon, Argyll, PA23 8QQ.

Bookings should be made through Cox & Kings before February 28, 1996. All other terms and conditions relating to these holiday competitions and offers are contained in the brochures.

HOW TO WIN £20,000

By collecting 30 of the 80 tokens which will appear every day in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* until December 28, you have the chance to win £20,000 cash to spend on an 80-day holiday of a lifetime.

The winner will be given help by Cox & Kings to work out a holiday itinerary to take them to some of the places they have always dreamed of going to.

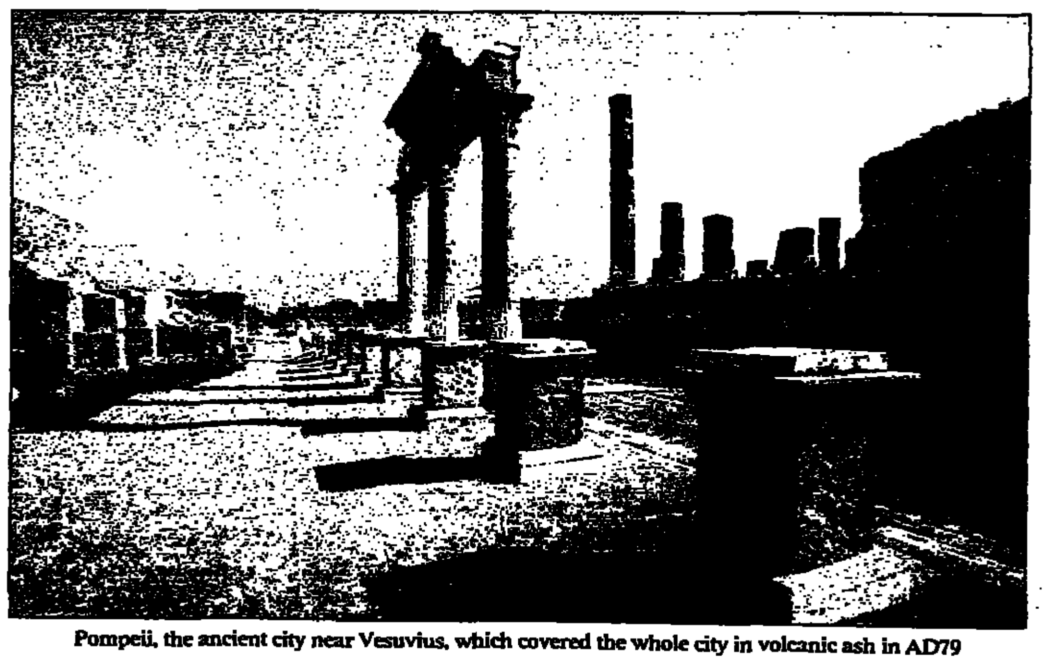
Attach your 30 differently numbered tokens to the completed entry form below and you will be entered into our prize draw. Readers may collect 60 tokens for two chances of winning.

Previously published tokens may be obtained free of charge by sending a sae to: *The Times/Sunday Times* Holiday of a Lifetime Competition, Token Request, PO Box 480, London E1 9DN. A maximum of four tokens can be supplied per application.

SWAN HELLENIC

FOR YOUR 10% HOLIDAY DISCOUNT CALL FOR A BROCHURE ON: 01369 707711

15-day cruise in the Aegean worth over £5,000



Pompeii, the ancient city near Vesuvius, which covered the whole city in volcanic ash in AD79

Today's prize, worth £5,620 for two people, is a 15-day cruise on the maiden voyage of the new ship, *Minerva*. The atmosphere on board is informal, meals are served from the pool-side buffet or in the dining room. The winner will have a standard cabin which all have private bathrooms. Other facilities include a swimming pool, gym, airy conservatory, smoking room and a variety of lounges.

Day 1 Fly from London Gatwick to Genoa. Embark *Minerva* and sail late evening. Day 2 Arrive in Naples for visits to Pompeii or Herculaneum. Day 3 Morning visit to Spaccanapoli, the oldest part of Naples, or visit Vesuvius. In the afternoon, sail to Capri. Day 4 Visit Taormina or Reggio Calabria to see the Riace bronzes, or join a botanical excursion. Afternoon at sea. Day 5 Arrive at Katakolo for a visit to Olympia. Day 6 From Gythion, a choice of excursions to Mistra or Sparta. Day 7 At Heraklion, visit Knossos and the archaeological museum or take a botanical tour. Day 8 Morning walk through the Crusader town of Rhodes. Afternoon at sea. Day 9 Excursions to some of Ionia's finest sites including Ephesus, Seljuk and Claros. Day 10 At Dikili go to Pergamum to see the Asclepieion. Day 11 Morning on the island of Delos and afternoon cruising across the Aegean Sea. Day 12 From Piraeus, visit the Acropolis and the National Museum in Athens. Excursions to Mycenae and Epidauros and sail through the Corinth Canal. Day 13 From Itea take an excursion to either Delphi or Osios Loukas. Day 14 At sea. Day 15 A spectacular morning approach into Venice for a guided walk before returning to London by air.

DATES OF DEPARTURE:

April 29 - May 13, 1996 Price, £2,529, a saving of £261 per person, includes flights, 14-nights twinshare accommodation, transfers, sightseeing, all meals, plus guest speakers and a botanist to lead the on shore excursions.

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win today's prize of a holiday on the maiden voyage of the *Minerva*, phone your answers to the two questions below on our competition hotline: 0891 40 50 34 before midnight tonight. Calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p at all other times.

The winner will be selected at random from all correct entries received. Normal *Times* Newspapers competition rules apply.

THE QUESTIONS

1. What is the oldest part of Naples called?

2. Where is known as the Crusader town?

THE TIMES
Around the World in 80 Days
£20,000
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AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS PRIZE DRAW ENTRY FORM

I enclose 30 tokens from *The Times/Sunday Times* and wish to enter the prize draw. Send to: Around The World Prize Draw, PO Box 6885, London E2 8SR. Closing date Friday January 12, 1996

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms .... First Name ....
Surname ....
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.... Postcode ....

It would help us if you answered these four questions:

1. Which of the following age groups do you fall into? (Please tick box)
1) 15-24 ☐ 2) 25-34 ☐ 3) 35-44 ☐
4) 45-54 ☐ 5) 55-64 ☐ 6) 65+ ☐

2. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies) during the week?
....

3. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less) during the week?
....

4. Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)?
....

Times Newspapers and its marketing partners would like to inform you of future products and offers. If you would prefer not to receive such information, please tick here ☐

IN THE SUNDAY TIMES TOMORROW: WIN A CRUISE TO RUSSIA

هكذا من الاصل

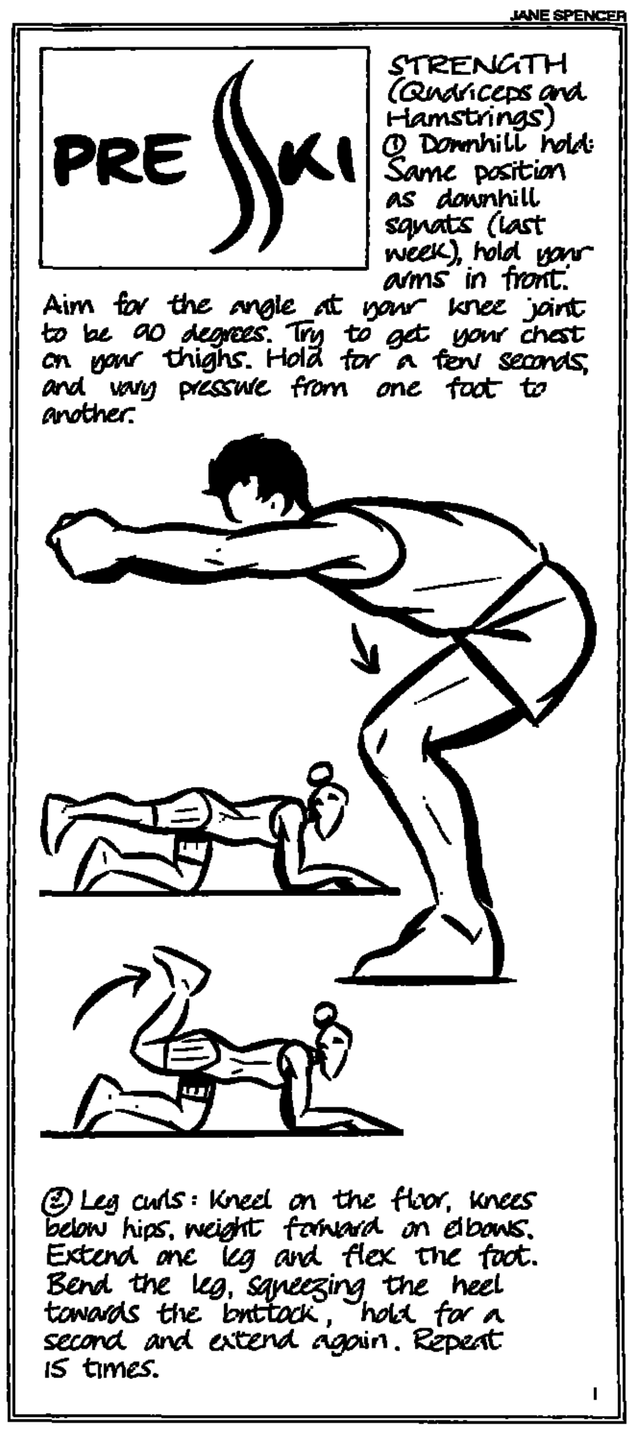
هكذا من الاصل

SKIING: An ageing failed skier finds a way round the slopes in America; accident cover when you are 65

SKI SHOOT — OFFSHOOT

The Vail valley in Colorado provides some of the best skiing and the most breathtaking views in the world in a setting that displays the best and worst of American wealth

JANE SPENCER



STRENGTH (Quadriceps and Hamstrings)

① Downhill hold: Same position as downhill squats (last week), hold your arms in front. Aim for the angle at your knee joint to be 90 degrees. Try to get your chest on your thighs. Hold for a few seconds, and vary pressure from one foot to another.

② Leg curls: Kneel on the floor, knees below hips, weight forward on elbows. Extend one leg and flex the foot. Bend the leg, squeezing the heel towards the buttock, hold for a second and extend again. Repeat 15 times.

☐ Exercises extracted from *Skilegs* by Tessa Coker, from the Ski Club of Great Britain, 118 Eaton Square, London (£2.50 inc. p&p). *The Times* cannot be held responsible for any injuries resulting from or sustained while carrying out the exercises and movements described above.

American snowshoe shuffle

Holidays on the ski slopes, if you have the knack, can be an antidote to winter blues, but reading about the wonders of skiing does little to raise the spirits of non-skiers. How Olympian skiers must feel, as they fly like bolts of lightning down the mountainside. How godlike, too, as they parade in their finery fineries and partake of the elysian pleasures of *après ski*. But what envy and resentment skiers induce in us earthbound mortals as they return to work and flaunt their suntans and flagrant good health.

The skiing cure for the winter virus has never worked for me, though it's not for want of trying. I realise I'm not really the sporty type, but my timing has been wrong as well. My last two skiing expeditions were with my family, and I was already in my mid-forties. We all signed on for the beginners' class on the lower slopes. In any group there has to be a butt, and as the oldest and least sure-footed member I was naturally consigned that role. I accepted my fate, but minded the speed with which my wife and children were promoted to the bright upper slopes. Twenty years passed, and I tried again — this time the tamer but more strenuous cross-country version, sometimes known as langlauf. We were an agreeably mature bunch, and all might have been well except that I fell heavily on a hidden stump, bruised my rib and was declared out of action.

Now I am in my mid-sixties and it may seem a little eccentric to have given skiing one more chance. But when my wife and I received an invitation to join friends for cross-country skiing in Colorado the opportunity had to be grasped.

I agree that the United States is a long way to go for a week's skiing, but our friends were staying in a particularly delectable corner of that gloriously endowed state, a mecca for outdoor folk. Our destination was a few miles up the valley from Vail, but a world away from the glitz of that resort.

Ten years ago, Cordillera was a bare mountain, 8,000 feet up, surrounded on all sides by the spectacular peaks of the Rockies. Then an imaginative entrepreneur fell in love with the site and dreamed a dream. First he built a small luxury hotel called The Lodge and hired a fine young Belgian chef. Then he constructed cross-country tracks, tennis courts, swimming pools and whirlpools, a leisure centre and a championship golf course. Today, that bare mountain is an exclusive resort: no ski lifts, no condominiums, no high-rise apartments, no boutiques.

Yes, Cordillera, like the whole of the Vail valley, is *nouveau* and also *très, très riche*. But it is also one of the most breathtaking spots I have seen. And the hotel is a model of its kind. The exuberant and matey staff are very different from the snooty bunch one often finds in expensive American establishments. We had been once before in high summer, when hiking and mountain-biking were the order of the day. We couldn't resist the invitation to see the place in its winter clothing.

I'd like to report that my fourth attempt at staying upright succeeded, but though I worked at it I came a cropper again and again. I was a four-time loser. Rosie, my sympathetic ski instructor, was encouraging, but when I fell heavily for the ninth time I knew I would never make it. "I think that's a real wise decision, Hilary," said Rosie.

But my resolve to quit cross-country skiing did not, as I'd expected, ban me from the upper slopes and force me to become just a hot-tub potato. There was an alternative form of footwear, I discovered to my delight, which still gave me the freedom of the snowfield. Snowshoes are, of course, as old as the hills, but within the last year an adaptation of the original Nordic contraption, a tennis-racket-shaped frame which you strap to your boot, has been developed in America. Made from light metal and neoprene, they are now, at least in the United States, used as a highly popular alternative to skis, and by no means just by senior citizens.

They even feature in a triathlon, along with skating and langlauf. The snowshoe shuffle is not glamorous — it's plodding — but you are not dependent on ski lifts. You can't fall, you don't have to keep your eyes fixed on the track ahead and you can safely walk all day on deep, soft, virgin snow.

Failed skiers of the world, take heart. With snowshoes, you have nothing to lose but your aches and pains.

HILARY RUBINSTEIN

● *The Lodge at Cordillera, Edwards, Vail Valley, Colorado 81632 (010 1 303 926 2200; fax 010 1 303 926 2486), is two hours' drive from Denver.*

As the lakes freeze over and the snow begins to fall, Michigan turns pure mystical white. There's a deafening silence that greets your ears and a breathtaking beauty besets your eyes.

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Take to cross country skis and make tracks through a virgin landscape. Or feel the power of your very own snowmobile as you glide along powdery forest trails.

Visit the Great Lakes of Michigan this winter and experience the magic of walking on water.

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HEART OF THE GREAT LAKES

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Mature skiers face uphill insurance

WIDE-BODY "fat boy" skis have added ten years or more to a skier's quality time on the slopes. But most ski insurers charge pensioners double premiums, and many refuse to issue policies to skiers over 65.

Ski specialist Douglas Cox Tyrie limits its Breakaway annual travel insurance, which includes 17 days' ski cover, to clients under 66. The Mondial Assistance annual travel insurance, with 17 days' winter sports cover, has a limit of 75.

Hamilton Barr, a popular insurer with tour operators, demands double premiums for pensioners, and will not issue policies to skiers over 80. Snowcard insurance agents consider clients over 65 on a case-by-case basis, doubling all rates for pensioners accepted and limiting cover to skiers under 76. Suretravel also doubles premiums for pensioners. And Columbus Direct carries a policy rider noting that its personal accident cover does not apply to clients over 70.

Ken Palmer, general manager of Fogg, one of the leading ski insurance companies, says actuarial statistics indicate that skiers over 65 are three and a half to four times more likely to sustain injury.

Fogg, insurers for the ski consultants Snowline, is, however, one of the few firms with no age limit or premium surcharge. "We have an 82-year-old female skier, and we were pleased to insure her," Mr Palmer says.

David Fox, of ski specialists Matthew Gerard, asks: "Why should a fit 70-year-old pay more than somebody at 50 with chronic heart disease?"

Mr Gerard's ski policies contain no surcharges for pensioners skiing in Europe, but premiums are doubled for North America.

The French Carte Neige, valid for rescue services throughout the world but with limited medical cover, has no surcharges or limits on age.

> ❛ Why should a fit person of 70 pay more? ❜

DOUG SAGER

● *Matthew Gerard, 01483 730900; Hamilton Barr, 01483 426600; Fogg, 01623 631331; Douglas Cox Tyrie, 0181 5349595; Snowcard, 01327 262805.*

● *Carte Neige cover can be arranged in Britain on 01544 388146.*

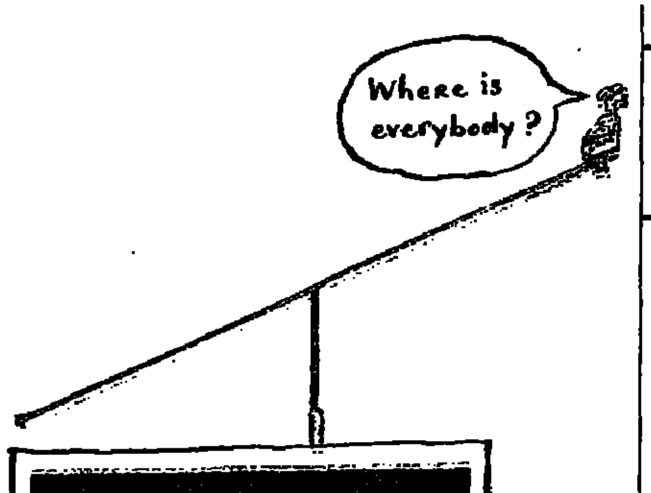
CHRIS BARRY

Older skiers are four times more likely to suffer injury

Ski Whistler/Blackcomb with Ski Thomson this winter for breathtaking skiing – some wicked couloirs for experts and plenty of cruising slopes for the morning after. Fly into Vancouver and stay at the 4T Fairways Hotel for 7 nights from only £486 in January.

Ski THE HIGHEST VERTICAL DROP IN NORTH AMERICA.

Ski Thomson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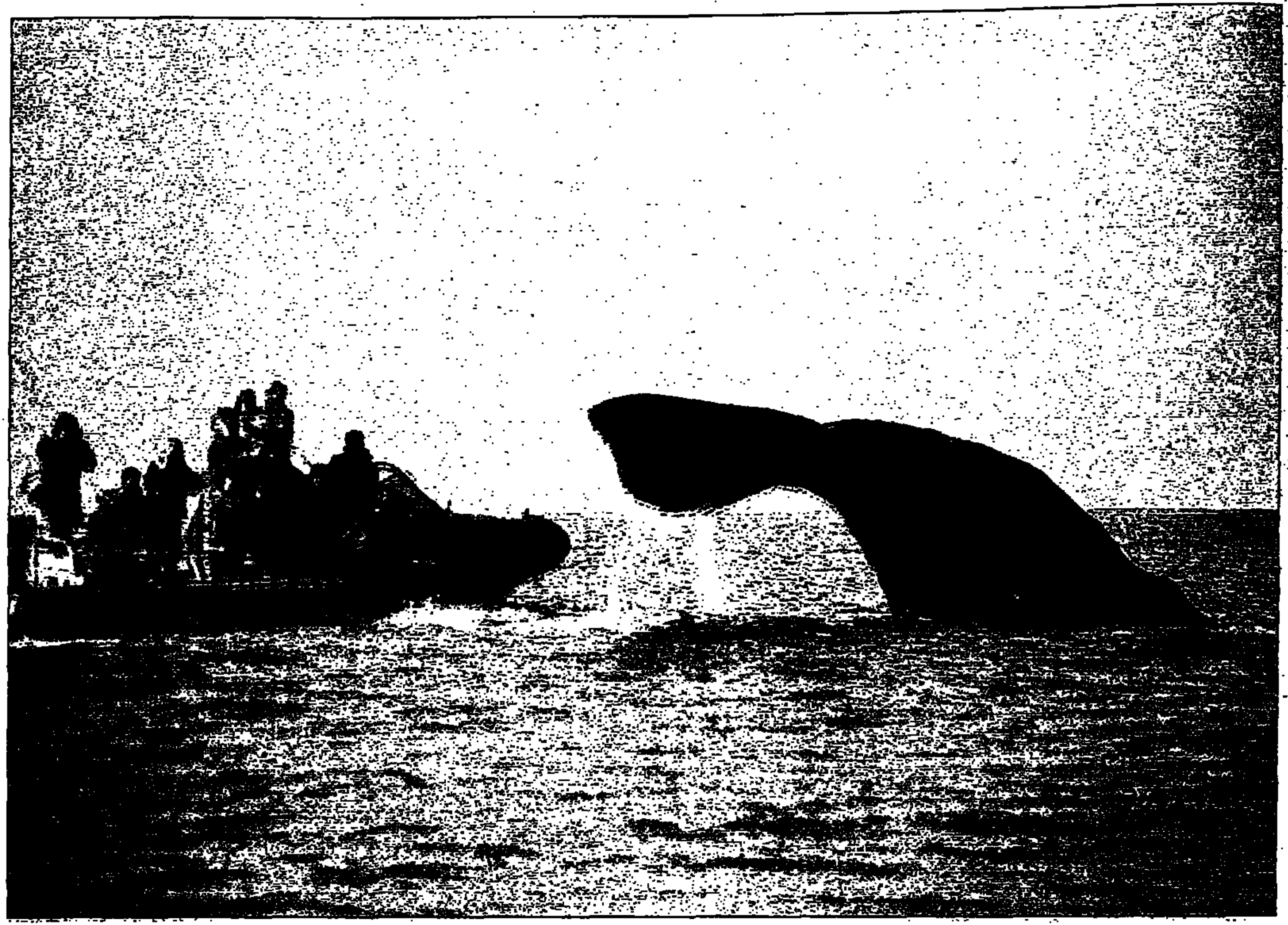
NEW ZEALAND: Whale-watching; and turquoise lagoons of the South Pacific

Singing with the dolphins



Visitors to Kaikoura can spend their holidays watching whales at close range and also get the chance to swim with and sing to dolphins

The waters of the Pacific off the east coast of New Zealand are extremely cold, even in summer. At 5am on a Saturday, the last thing I wanted to do was slide into the icy ocean but, an hour later, equipped with a mask, snorkel, flippers and wearing a black wetsuit and hood, I took the plunge from a boat near Kaikoura, at the northest end of the South Island, on an expedition to swim with dolphins.

After about 20 minutes, the first pod of dolphins was sighted. My initial glimpse of the leaping Dusky dolphins (one of 36 different species) was breathtaking. I had expected to see small groups of 20 or 30, but there were about 200, moving with incredible grace and speed. Our boat was moving at 25 knots alongside the pod, but the dolphins kept up effortlessly. Several swam over and played in the bow wave, or dived under one side of the boat and emerged on the other.

After a few minutes, the boat accelerated just ahead of the pod, and then stopped. The horn was sounded and we divers quickly slipped over the side into the water.

On this, the first of three drops, our group tried singing to the dolphins. The guide on the boat had told us that singing and mimicry interests the dolphins and helps to keep them in the immediate vicinity but, on reflection, I cannot believe that any mammals, especially those with such sensitive hearing, enjoy listening to humans singing, particularly groups as diverse and discordant as ours.

> ‘Being so close to such beautiful mammals is a moving experience’

The racket generated through snorkels by two Japanese women, a French couple, two German men, two Italians and a Briton was terrible. Each individual sang a different tune in a different language. I tried *Summertime*. The dolphins decided to keep moving.

On the second drop, we used our energy for duck-diving. At one point, two or three dolphins circled me, less than an arm's length away; being so close to such beautiful mammals in their own environment was a moving experience.

Our final drop among the dolphins was equally exciting. It is difficult to describe the joy and excitement that the dolphins convey through their leaps and dives. Dusky dolphins are the most acrobatic members of the dolphin family. They can spin, somersault forward and backward and leap several feet clear of the water.

The marine life at Kaikoura, unlike that at Monkey Mia in Australia or Eilat in Israel, is not fed or restrained in any way. The clash of warm and cold currents by the Kaikoura Canyon creates an up-swell which brings nutrient-rich water to the surface. This food attracts plankton, which, in turn, attracts fish of all sizes, and sperm whales weighing up to 50 tonnes.

Whales are something very different, as I discovered during my stay. The best time to watch them is at sunrise, when the water is calm.

I trudged down to the whale-watching station at 5am and joined the group of 30 sleepy-eyed tourists who were waiting for transportation to the harbour, where we were allocated seats on a small boat.

The red sunrise over the ocean was spectacular. On the way to the viewing area our Maori guide explained echo-location, the use of underwater microphones to detect the clicking of the sperm whales. Once a whale surfaces, it usually stays there for several minutes to fill its lungs: plenty of time to take pictures. However, after it has dived, it may stay underwater for up to an hour and a half. The trick is to locate the whale, through its clicks, just before it rises to the surface.

Most tourist trips sight two to six whales. On my outing, we spotted five separately. Because these enormous creatures need large feeding areas, it is rare to see them in groups.

It is hard to appreciate the wonder of the whales when surrounded by 30 amateur photographers, so we were taken to the boat's viewing platform in groups of five. My peek was definitely worthwhile. I watched a whale, almost 20 metres long, arch its back and then dive beneath the surface with surprising grace. Two seconds after the whale's back disappeared, its tail emerged for a moment — posed for photos — and then it too was gone.

Whale Watch Kaikoura, the company which organised the trip, recently beat 120 entries to win the British Airways "Tourism for Tomorrow" award. The company's success with whale-watching has led to proposals for a further operation to be set up by a rival company, and the New Zealand High Court has just upheld a decision that the Department of Conservation has the right to issue another whale-watching permit. This may turn out to be too much of a good thing, according to some environmentalists, who fear that more trips will scare away the marine life.

Kaikoura is not the only place in New Zealand for sighting marine mammals. The Bay of Islands runs dolphin expeditions, and whales are often seen along the coast. On the ferry crossing from the north to the south island, whale sightings are frequent. Many New Zealanders fondly remember the dolphin at Hokianga dubbed "Opo", who, in 1955, made such regular appearances in the harbour that thousands of people flocked to the town every weekend to paddle in the same water, play ball games with it, or place their children on its back.

Nowhere else in the world can such a wide variety of whales and dolphins be viewed so closely.

Whale-watching trips and dolphin swimming expeditions run throughout the year, although the weather affects the sort of marine life present. Two days before my trip (in late November), several groups were fortunate enough to see a pod of Orca, for example. Such adventures are well worth the £40 charge.

There are numerous other activities on offer to visitors to New Zealand: rock climbing, abseiling, horse-riding, skiing, caving, bungee-jumping, tandem sky-diving, and trekking the rugged tracks in the majestic fjordland of the South Island and thermal regions of the North Island. There are also varied watersports, making use of inland rapids and the extensive beaches.

MICHAEL LEVENTHAL

Kiwi contacts

☐ **Air New Zealand (0181-741 2299) flies four times a week from Heathrow to Christchurch, via Los Angeles and Auckland, from £1,365 return.**

☐ **Transportation from Christchurch to Kaikoura, for an adult return, costs £27 by train, £24 by bus and £68 by air.**

☐ **New Zealand Tourist Board, New Zealand House, Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4TQ. Tel: 0839 300 900 (39p per minute, off peak), fax: 0171-839 8929. Alternatively, Kaikoura Information and Tourism Inc., West End, Kaikoura, NZ, tel: 01064-3-319 5641 fax: 01064-3-319 6819.**

☐ **Dolphin Encounter run trips only between October and April. Snorkelling gear and buoyancy wetsuits are provided. Trips cost £35 (adults) or £23 (children under 15). Adult spectators are charged £23, children £16. For more details contact Dennis Buurman, Dolphin Encounter, Kaikoura, NZ, tel: 01064-3-319 6777, fax: 01064-3-319 6534.**

☐ **For details on whale-watching: Whale Watch Kaikoura Ltd, The Whaleway Station, PO Box 89, Kaikoura, tel: 01064-3-319 5045, fax: 01064-3-319 5045. Trips cost £31 per adult per trip.**

☐ **Motels provide the best accommodation in Kaikoura, charging £23-£40 per night, per studio (no meals included). Christchurch, however, has a wide variety of hotels.**

On the trail of Captain Cook

FIFTEEN tiny islands, averaging barely six square miles each, but scattered across almost a million square miles of crystal-clear blue ocean: the remote and serenely beautiful Cook Islands amount to the South Pacific with an antipodean accent.

Annexed to New Zealand by the British in 1901, the Cooks lie slap in the middle of the Polynesian triangle, midway between Tonga and Tahiti. Situated 2,000 miles north west of Auckland, and as far south of the equator as Hawaii is north, they offer all the exotica of the South Seas with most of the mod cons of life down under.

On the main island of Rarotonga, accessible by a direct, four-hour flight from Auckland, some 20,000 European tourists a year (a quarter of them British) join twice as many Australasians, Americans and Japanese in minibuses or on mopeds to take the 20-mile road around the circumference of a temperate tropical island whose mountainous interior is too rugged to attract any but the hardiest trekkers.

It is barely ten years since tourism developed here, and veterans of other, less westernised South Pacific islands may regret it. From one of two resort hotels, the Rarotonga or the Edgewater, the new breed of South Seas adventurer can learn the ancient tribal arts of basket weaving, fishing, coconut husking, even native dancing, in school crocodiles curling around the charming, (if slightly Disneyesque) Cultural Village. Or, in the Cook Islands' capital of Avarua, you can take a tour of the brewery, whose excellent product is named after the seafarer.

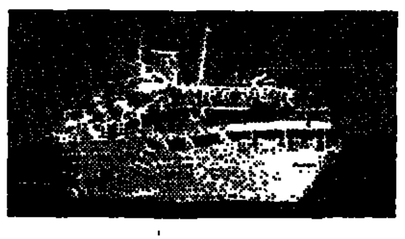
Though the first to chart them, the intrepid Captain James Cook never actually landed in the islands which bear his name. The first Europeans to set foot in Rarotonga, in 1789, were the *Bounty* mutineers.

The *Bounty's* last port of call before the mutiny had been the atoll of Aitutaki — whose cannibal tribes had only recently been converted by the legendary missionary, John Williams, who would wind up being killed and eaten in Vanuatu. The second largest Cook Island, though only seven sparsely populated square miles, Aitutaki is surrounded by a stunning turquoise lagoon, dotted with tiny *motus* (or smaller islands), which help justify its claim to being the most exquisitely beautiful of all Pacific islands.

TAKE the 40-minute flight from Rarotonga, bump across Aitutaki's few miles of dirt track in an open-top, and you board the boat ride of your dreams to picture-postcard islets and coral reefs. Here you can swim, snorkel and eat barbecued fish caught and cooked by singing boatmen on the desert island of your choice, and wonder why you ever booked a ticket home.

ANTHONY HOLDEN

● *The author was a guest of Kuoni Travel and Air New Zealand. The Cook Islands are an optional South Pacific stopover offered by Kuoni in its return airfare to Auckland, Christchurch or Wellington, from £919 to £1,500 according to season. Telephone: 01306-741111. A day trip to Aitutaki costing £145 can be booked via your hotel or local phone 22-888.*



SAILING TO THE SEYCHELLES

A 12 NIGHT INDIAN OCEAN CRUISE FROM MOMBASA TO ZANZIBAR, THE COMORES, MADAGASCAR AND THE SEYCHELLES ABOARD 'MV ROYAL STAR
13-28 March 1996 16 Days from £1720

Tear yourself away from the grey of a British winter and join us aboard the yacht-like 'Royal Star' for a cruise in the tropics next March. We will sail from the Kenyan port of Mombasa, bound for a cruise of discovery amongst the islands of the Indian Ocean. We will visit Zanzibar with its markets, mosques and winding streets of Arab style houses, little changed for centuries. Then we will go on to the beautiful island of Mayotte which is geographically part of the Comores, but politically an overseas French territory.

THE MV ROYAL STAR

Formerly known as the 'Ocean Islander' the Swiss owned and managed 'Royal Star' is an ideal ship for such a voyage and perfect for those who prefer a more traditional atmosphere. With a maximum of 220 passengers aboard she offers the intimate and relaxed atmosphere of a private yacht, yet with all the facilities you expect to find on a larger vessel.

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ITINERARY IN BRIEF

DAY 1 Gatwick Depart late afternoon.
DAY 2 Mombasa Arrive and embark Royal Star and sail.
DAY 3 Zanzibar Full day visit.
DAY 4 At sea
DAY 5 Mayotte Full day visit.
DAY 6 Nosy Be Full day visit.
DAYS 7 & 8 At sea
DAY 9 Mahe Morning arrival – full day and moor overnight.
DAY 10 Praslin Full day visit and moor overnight.
DAY 11 La Digue Morning visit.
DAYS 12 & 13 At sea
DAY 14 Mombasa Arrive and transfer to the first class Flamingo Beach Hotel for a 2 night stay.
DAY 15 Mombasa At leisure.
DAY 16 Mombasa - London Day flight arriving Gatwick mid-afternoon.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS

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Before reaching the Seychelles we will drop anchor off the northern tip of Madagascar at the island of Nosy Be, an intriguing, mountainous island of lovely beaches and plantations, where hopefully we will see lemurs. Our time in the Seychelles will be centred around Mahe and the nearby island of Praslin where we will visit the dramatic rain forest of Vallee de Mai, described by General Gordon as the 'Forgotten Eden'. We will also visit the charming island of La Digue, surely one of the most beautiful of all the Seychelles Islands.

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Inside 2 beds	£1990
Outside 2 beds (Category D)	£2180
Outside 2 beds (Category C)	£2280
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Outside 2 beds (Deluxe)	£2720
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Prices subject to surcharge. Ports subject to change.

Single occupancy: Add 30% to double cabin prices. Suites not available for sole occupancy.

Price includes: Air Travel Gatwick-Mombasa return with Caledonian Airlines (Tristar). 12 nights aboard the Royal Star on full board, port taxes, transfers, 2 nights at the Flamingo Beach Hotel on full board, local taxes, airport taxes.

Not included: Travel insurance, port excursions, tips to ship's crew.

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Extend your stay at the Flamingo Beach Hotel or take a safari to Tsavo, Amboseli and the Masai Mari. Details available on request.

صكنا من الاهل

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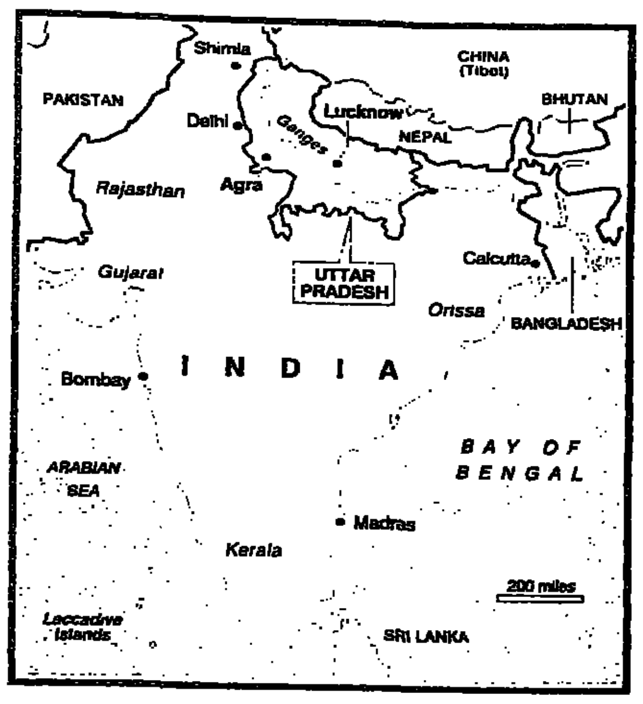
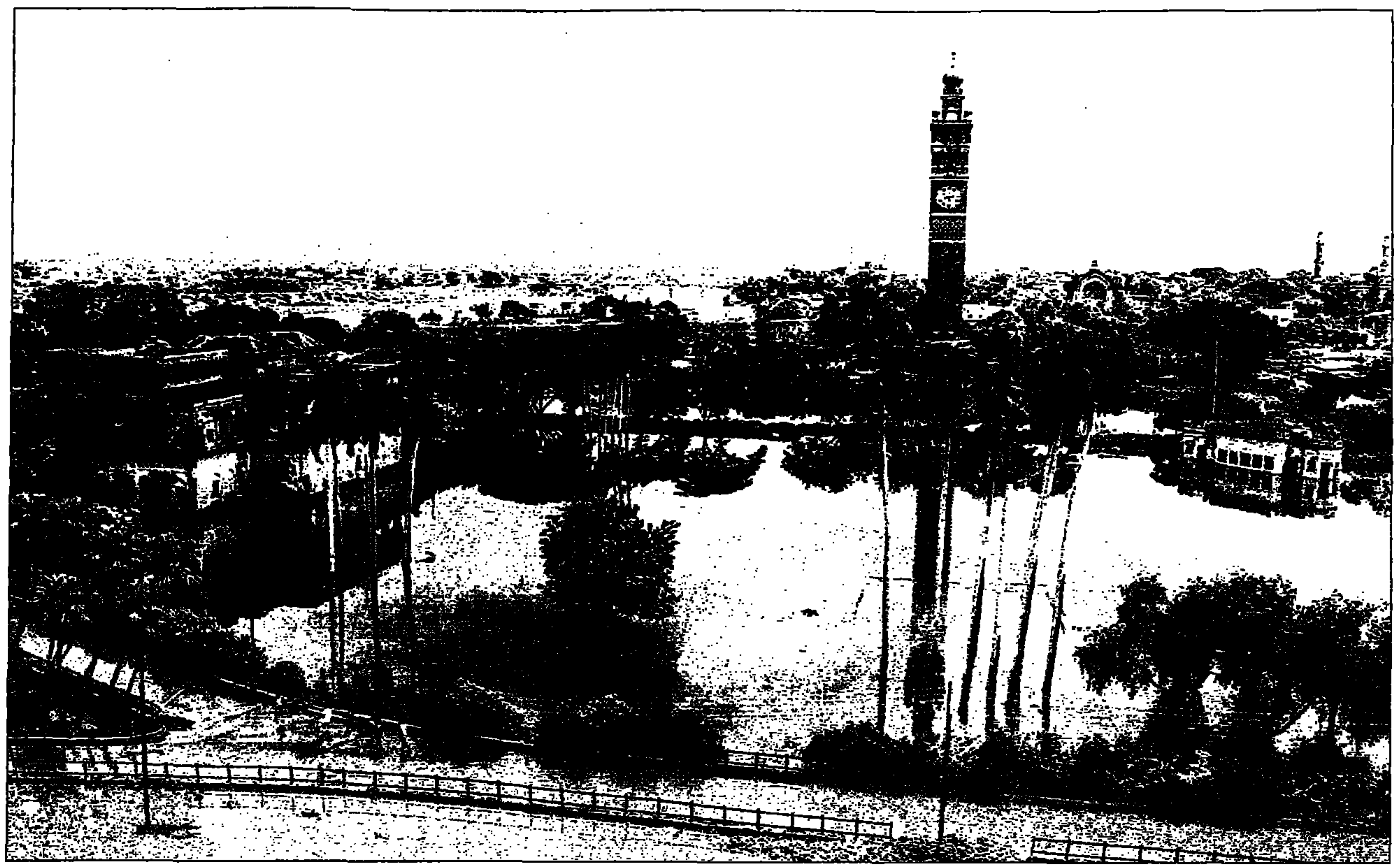
INDIA: A stroll through the streets of Lucknow, former capital of the ancient Hindu kingdom of Avadh



Romance and spices in faded splendour


The once-great city of Lucknow, under water after floods, spreads out from the banks of the Gomati River. It is still a bustling capital, serving the state of Uttar Pradesh

In Lucknow it is the custom to stroll the streets — not to get anywhere, the street itself is the destination. In the old city, where the narrow alleyways weave and spin themselves into knots, the wandering tourist is easily lost, moulded like warm wax into a jostling crowd. But walk out along the banks of the River Gomati and suddenly you find yourself in a quieter world. Few foreigners travelling the beaten track from Delhi to Kathmandu pause on their journey to visit this once-great city, the former capital of the Hindu kingdom of Avadh.

"Come and see the waters," cried a gang of boys, tugging at my sleeve as I waded barefoot through slimy floodwater. I splashed after them towards the doorway of a tower. Shadowy figures slid out of the darkness and led me up the spirals of a crumbling stairway and we emerged, blinking on the ramparts, with the whole of Lucknow spread out below.

It would be hard to match the description of Sir William Russell, a former correspondent for *The Times*: "It recalls Kublai Khan's Xanadu," he wrote, standing on the roof of the Dilkusha Palace in 1858. "A vision of palaces, minars and domes . . .cupolas, colonnades, all rising amid a calm, still ocean of the brightest verdure."

Much has changed since Sir William's day. More than a third of Lucknow's map was redrawn with a ruthless military logic by the British after the Indian Mutiny in 1857. Yet still, rising from monsoon floods where water buffalo wallowed, thick as tadpoles in a ditch, I saw the skyline of a gracious city, a harmony of architectural styles, perhaps all the more romantic for the creeping decay.

In Kipling's *Kim*, "no city — except Bombay — was more beautiful in her garish style than Lucknow". Built in the 18th century by the Nawabs, the grand viziers of Avadh — whose jewel-bedecked portraits still grace the walls of the Lucknow art gallery — it was intended to shine "like a cultural star in the firmament of Northern India".

Though the city now is a bustling administrative centre, the capital of the state of Uttar Pradesh, a visitor can still sample the extravagance of Mughal times, when peacocks flirted in ambrosial gardens and incense clouded the sun. A guided tour leads visitors around minaretted mosques and fountained banqueting halls, through honeycombed archways and sculpted colonnades. There are shrines to visit and emblazoned tombs to the opulent dead. Above the azure domes, vultures floated lazily as drifting ash.

For many visitors, the most poignant ruin of all is the British residency, centrepiece of what the English called a mutiny and the Indians a war of independence. Here, in 33 acres of roofless buildings and tumbling walls — all perfectly preserved as they were when the siege ended — a handful of the British and their allies barricaded themselves against feverish Indian insurgents. Gallantries on both sides are movingly recorded in a museum inside the compound.

Legend has it that the first shop to open its doors when the mutiny was over was a perfumery. Even as peace was declared, the fragrance of khas, henna, and ghulab mingled with the drifting gunsmoke while the defiant notes of the sarangi wailed out of the courtesans' apartments in the Chowk bazaar.

This city has kept its epicurean culture. The finest culinary delights are still served at table, recipes passed down from noble times when master chefs, paid staggering salaries, would take two days to prepare a *mash ki dal*, when chapatis were translucent and a *masalachi* was kept in permanent employment, his sole responsibility to grind spices. In the winding gullies of the market, craftsmen still sell saris of liquid silk and fragrant ittar, the gold-embroidered zardosi and exquisite silverware.

But above all it is the *wazedari* for which Lucknow is known — the keeping up of old social values. Fastidious courtesies still linger, though blended with more modern times, and it was with some eagerness that I awaited a promised introduction to Mr Mehta, a "true Lucknowi gentleman of leisure".

When I eventually met him, wreathed in fumes of Indian whiskey, it was at a reunion for the old boys of the La Martiniere School. The haunting melodies of sitar and sarod had been abandoned in favour of electric guitars. The courtly movements of the Kathak had been edged off stage by an amorphous shuffle. A row over the presidency of the old-boys' society was brewing and an angry brawl broke out. But the gentleman of leisure swept me graciously from the scene. "Excuse me ma'am," asked a polite young Lucknowi, "I hope you won't be offended ma'am, but do you have any grass?"

In the market place the next day, a fruit seller approached us offering mangoes. They were battered and blemished and my companion examined them critically. But the seller was persistent. "What is he saying?" I asked our guide. The reply had the all the lyricism of Urdu poetry. "He is saying," said the guide, "that the mangoes are not overripe, their hearts are just bruised with love for your friend."

RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON

In India

☐ The author was a guest of Cox & Kings Travel, the Indian Tourist Office and the Taj Group of hotels. Lucknow is on Cox & Kings' Bundlekand and Madhya Pradesh tour. Prices from £1,400 per person on British Airways with accommodation on a room-only basis. Cox & Kings (0171-873 5000) can make itineraries to include Lucknow. BA flights from London to Delhi from approximately £780 per person, economy. Single room at the Taj Mahal hotel from £109 per night.

BEST HOLIDAY DEALS AROUND THE WORLD

☐ The National Trust has issued its second "National Trust Travel Collection" brochure. New tours include a 13-night trip to Syria visiting Damascus, Palmyra and Aleppo as well as archaeological sites, at £1,625 per person including flights from a choice of UK airports, internal travel, full-board accommodation in five-star hotels, a tour leader and a local tour guide. Call 0116-252-4444 for more information.

☐ Great Rail Journeys (01904 679969) offers a 16-day trans-Canada trip on the recently restored *Canadian*. From Toronto the train travels west to the Rocky Mountains and Vancouver, with side trips to Niagara Falls and the Athabasca Glacier. There are five departures between May and September 1996, from £1,490 per person including return flights from Heathrow, B&B hotel accommodation, full board on the *Canadian* and a tour manager.

☐ Return scheduled flights to Dubai are on offer from Quest Worldwide (0181-547 3322) for £305 for adults (£160 for children up to 11) from Heathrow, Manchester or Birmingham until December 17, for six to 90 days.

☐ CV Travel (0171-581 0851) has cottages for two to country houses for ten in Andalucia and Majorca, available for Christmas rental. Prices from £450 to £2,500 per week. Flights and car-hire can also be arranged.

☐ Equity Total Ski (01273 203202) has savings of £123 per person on December 31 departures to the Italian resort of Sansicario. A seven-night, half-board stay at the Fraiteve Aparthotel now costs £499 per person from Gatwick (£511 from Manchester), including lift pass, equipment, tuition and insurance.

☐ Cadogan Holidays (01703 332661) has expanded its Southern Spain programme to include Valencia and a golf package to La Manga. Three nights at the Hotel Valencia Palace cost from £308 per person. A week at Las Lomas Apartments in the La Manga Club Resort costs from £265 per person, inclusive of return flights from Gatwick.

☐ French Country Camping (01923 261311) has expanded its free bicycle-hire service to 42 of its sites in France. A 14-night stay in early May at Camping L'Ile Blanche on the Ile de Re, which has 60km of cycle paths, will cost two adults and up to four children £254 inclusive of return ferry crossing, if booked before December 22.

CHRISTINE WHEELER

CORRECTION

Austravel's new low-season, seven-night package to the Hayman Island luxury resort, off the coast of Queensland, costs £657 per person for acommodation only (not £657 all in, as mentioned last week), or £1,766 per person including flights with Virgin Atlantic and Ansett Australia Airlines, with an optional stopover in Hong Kong. For further information, call 0171-838 1011.

Faraway Places from £249.

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Luxor	17, 24 Nov	Gatwick	3T BB	14	£299	£179
Luxor	17, 24 Nov	Gatwick	4T BB	14	£359	£179
Luxor	24 Nov	Gatwick	4T BB	7	£299	£179
Luxor	1 Dec	Gatwick	3T BB	7	£249	£159
Luxor	1 Dec	Gatwick	3T BB	14	£289	£169
Sri Lanka	22, 29 Nov	Gatwick	3T BB	7	£279	-
Sri Lanka	22, 29 Nov	Gatwick	3T BB	14	£319	-
Goa	25 Nov, 2 Dec	Gatwick	2T BB	14	£359	-
Goa	2, 9 Dec	Gatwick	3T BB	7	£439	-
Goa	9 Dec	Gatwick	2T BB	14	£399	-
Goa	9 Dec	Gatwick	4T BB	14	£699	-
St Lucia	26 Nov, 3 Dec	Gatwick	4T AI	14	£1199	£259
Barbados	28 Nov, 5 Dec	Gatwick	4T AI	14	£1139	£299
Dominican Rep (Sth)	7 Dec	Gatwick	4T AI	14	£799	£239

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Prices shown exclude insurance and are per person in a twin/double room. Not all accommodation is necessarily brochured, but it will always be of the grade indicated. Holidays at these prices are subject to availability. *AI–All inclusive, BB–Bed & Breakfast, RO–Room Only. Please ask your travel agent to show you the Thomson Square Deal Information Sheet. Thomson Tour Operations Ltd. ATOL 2524 ABTA V6218.

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Itinerary at a Glance
Madras (Hotel Connemara) First 2 nights and last night
Bangalore (Hotel Taj Residency) 1 night
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Nagarhole (Kabini River Lodge/Jungle Huts) 2 nights
Ooty (Savoy Hotel) 2 nights

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Cox & Kings, 4th floor, Gordon House, 10 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1PH (please quote EI111195)

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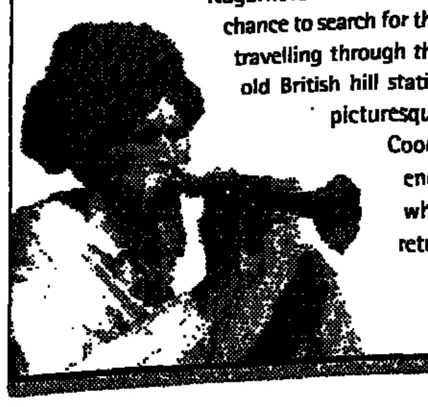

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INDIAhhh

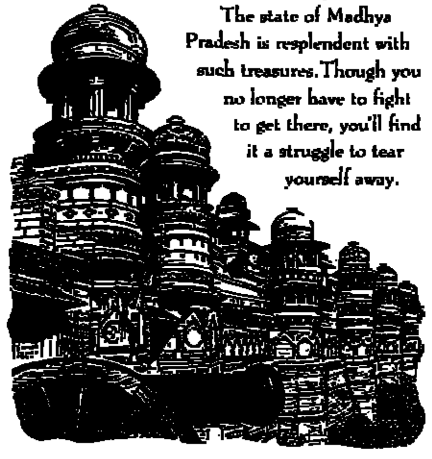
In days gone by, you would have had to fight to see it.

Just south of the Taj Mahal at Agra, Gwalior, greatest of all Hindu fortresses, rises majestically above India's northern plains. Situated at the nation's geographical, historical and metaphorical crossroads, this colossus has been mauled for over a millennium by besieging armies, most notably those of the moghuls, Marathas and British.

The short drive to Shivpuri sees a complete change of pace. Surrounded by the leafy Madhav National Park, this old summer capital of exquisite palaces and cool lakes charmed the warriors of the past to lay their weapons aside and relax.

And so to the peaceful medieval riverside town of Orchha. Three palaces cluster inside its fortress, all rich in romance, yet time (and tourism) seems to have passed them by.

The state of Madhya Pradesh is resplendent with such treasures. Though you no longer have to fight to get there, you'll find it a struggle to tear yourself away.



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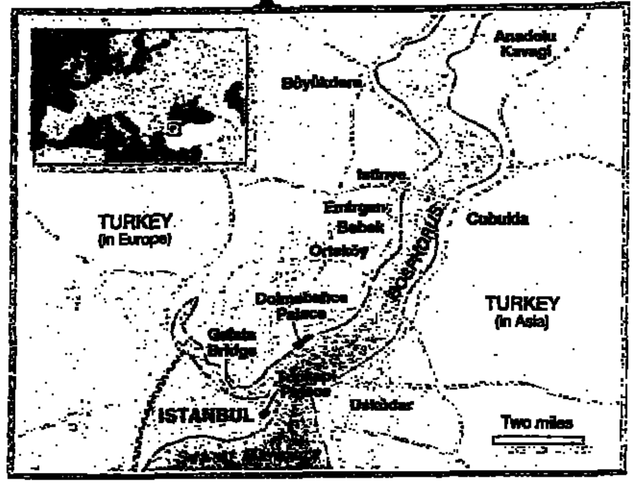
TURKEY: City break in Istanbul; bathtime in the imperial city; mirror image of the Ottoman Empire

Hypnotised by the Bosphorus



You could only just see the Bosphorus from the khedive's summer palace, but it was always there just the same. From the vast semi-circular dining room — restored, art deco style, as if for an Agatha Christie convention — its grey waters glimmered faintly through the dripping rose gardens and groves of dank cypress trees. It was our wedding anniversary and out of season.

The only other guests that day at the Hidiv Kasri, a short ferry ride up river from Istanbul at Cubuklu, were a disembodied wedding dress in a glass case, and a cat, small, pied, and alley-wise, who picked his way familiarly though the marble fountains and the potted palms to snare most of our lunch.

In Istanbul it is possible to spend whole days at a time hypnotised by water. Our room at the Avicenna Hotel in the old quarter of town had a balcony facing the Sea of Marmara, and even in October it was warm enough to sit out there at breakfast (crumbly white sheep's cheese, olives and rose-petal jam) and watch the changes of light across the water. On fine days, salty and blue as the Aegean; on grey ones, striped dazzlingly with light. At midday, the perspective was so flat that the cargo tankers clustered together en route for the Black Sea looked like cut-out shapes.

Like all famous cities, there is an element of tyranny involved in visiting Istanbul: al those mosques and palaces and bazaars to "do" before you can get on with the real business of enjoying yourself.

Take the Dolmabahce Palace for example. Only one word describes this 19th-century palace of the Ottoman sultans: preposterous. Tours are obligatory, security is tight, and, in my opinion at least, even half an hour spent traipsing along its gilded corridors is an enervating experience. But the view overlooking the Bosphorus ... well, that was something else.

There is no doubt that the Bosphorus is the genius of this city. The Turks have always known it, and built their summer palaces and pavilions on its cool banks. For the price of a tumbler of *ayran* (buttermilk) or a thimble-sized glass of apple tea, you can sit out on one of the Dolmabahce's marble terraces and enjoy the theatre of the cargo ships gliding by, and between them the constant traffic of fishing caiques and ferries.

These ferries are the key to exploring the Bosphorus. In less than a day it is possible to do the round trip all the way from the Galata Bridge, in the old city, to the fishing hamlet of Anadalou Kavagi on the strait's Asian shore, within sight of the Black Sea. In the village square the old men with beards and skullcaps mend their nets beneath the plane trees. As the rows of souvenir shops and restaurants on the waterfront attest, in the summer this is busy.

Less well visited, certainly out of season, are the old Bosphorus villages — Emirgan, Ortakoy, Istinye, Bebek. Although on paper these are no more than suburbs by the now vastly overswollen metropolis, each has a distinctive flavour of its own. With its gin palaces and yachting clubs, Bebek has a distinctly glitzy Mediterranean feel to it. Nearby, Emirgan, famous for its tulip gardens, still preserves a faded, pleasingly provincial air. We stopped off at the café beneath the plane trees in the dappled village squares to sample the coffee (the village was once known for the excellence of its spring waters) and also to try the local pastries, Emirgan Lokum exquisite bite-sized puffs laced with honey and nuts.

To Ortakoy, with its waterside fish restaurants and Sunday flea market, we happily devoted a whole day. Chic young locals swathed in leather and black denim played draughts and read the papers, or just simply took the air and watched the ships go by.

For me, best of all was being on the water itself. Sailing back to the Galata Bridge at dusk, the lights came on one by one on Old Stambul's seven hills. As we drew nearer, the sky turned a deep lemon yellow, throwing the whole horizon into sharp relief. And, as the last of the sun caught at the domed roofs and minarets and cypress spires of the Topkapi Palace, it was as if, for a brief moment, the whole city was at our feet.

KATIE HICKMAN

Passport to Turkish delights

☐ The author was a guest of Time Off, specialists in short city breaks located at Chester Street, London SWIX 7BQ (0171-235 8070). Two nights in Istanbul from £299.
☐ Turkish Tourist Board, 170-173 Piccadilly, London WIV 9DD (0171-629 7771).
☐ Guide book to Istanbul and the Bosphorus: ***Strolling Through Istanbul***, by Hilary Sumner Boyd and John Freely.

ROBERT HARDING

The Cagaloglu Hamami, one of the oldest Turkish baths in Istanbul, lists among its visitors Edward VIII, Kaiser Wilhelm, Franz Liszt, Florence Nightingale and Tony Curtis

Turkish bath fit for a sultan

"Call me Ismael." I was nearing the end of my Turkish bath when he introduced himself. At the time he was performing a curious manoeuvre which entailed separating my fingers into two groups of two, and splitting them to almost cracking point in an extreme version of Mr Spock's Vulcan salute before whiplashing my whole arm with a violent jerk of his wrists. Next, my other arm was stretched out from my shoulder, my fingers separated and my wrists snapped with a jerk — I swear, my fillings jangled.

Ismael is a masseur at the Cagaloglu Hamami, one of the oldest Turkish baths (Hamam) in Istanbul. The Cagaloglu is tucked away off one of the main roads leading up from the Ayasofya and Blue mosques in the old quarter. We approached it down half-a-dozen marble steps to a small wooden door. On the wall outside was a menu and price list of the services on offer: self-service bath, scrubbed assisted bath, massage *a la turc*, complete bath service, and finally, the complete oriental luxury service, which was billed as being fit for a sultan.

Customers go inside, pick the service they want, hand over the money and get a token denoting their chosen washes. There were two separate baths: one for men and the other for women, who are attended by masseuses.

The reception area is a large marble courtyard, with marbled floor, wall and ceiling, arranged around an ornate fountain. Stairs in the corners lead up to two tiers of balconies. I was shown to one of the changing rooms which lined the balconies. They were all identical and each one contained a narrow couch and a rough wooden table. I was given a key and a rough cotton wraparound, which the attendant informed me by miming a quick striptease that I had to change into

Downstairs, I was immediately shown through an archway which led to a large heavy wooden door banded with straps of wrought iron. As the door swung open slowly on creaky hinges, wet, warm heat seeped out and muffled sounds of lazily slapped flesh echoed gently off the marble walls which I glimpsed beyond. This was the peep behind the veil. Here I was about to experience something uniquely Turkish, a living part of the culture which remains unchanged and stretches back through the centuries beyond the days of Suliman the Magnificent to the thousand and one nights of Scheherazade.

Architecturally, the hamam was similar to the interior of a mosque. It was arranged below a dome. A circular colonnade of archways defined the circumference, each one housing a small ornately carved marble basin into which warm water poured constantly. But the dominant feature of the room was a large, circular dais of solid marble standing almost a metre off the floor. This slab is where the action takes place. It is also where a lot of the inaction takes place. A dozen men stretched out like cats in the sun letting the heat gently sweat out the grime of the day.

A Turkish bath is, obviously, a social activity and after a hard day's haggling at the bazaar, or at the end of an eight-hour shift steering a *dolmus* taxi through Istanbul's choking streets, men visit them to unwind, relax, talk and bond together.

The Cagaloglu Hamami is one of Istanbul's oldest and most famous Turkish baths. It was built at the beginning of the 18th century as a temple to bathing and used to be the exclusive preserve of the sultan, caliphs and viziers as well as other chosen favourites. In more recent times, the great and the good who have come to throw their bodies on this high altar of ablution have included Edward VIII, Kaiser Wilhelm, Franz Liszt and Florence Nightingale.

You can lie wherever there is a space, and the rule seemed to be to lie with your head pointing towards the centre of the circle, fat and thin and tall and short alike. From a bird's eye view we must have looked like a dozen long and short hands on the face of a watch. Most men seemed to be content to let the steady warmth slowly cleanse them. However, one was getting the treatment from a solidly built masseur who, for a big man, possessed an extraordinarily keen sense of balance. How could I tell? Because he was walking up the back of his client's leg, pirouetting just below his backside and strolling down the other one.

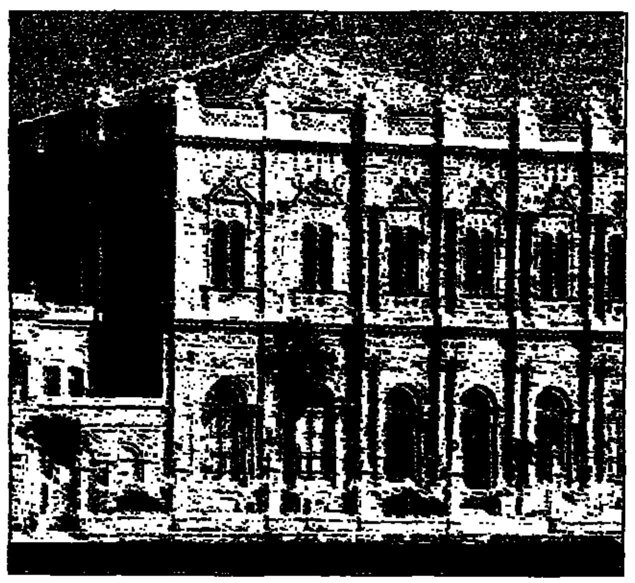
I'd been there about half an hour and was beginning to think that they had forgotten all about me, and not minding in the least, when there was a tap on my shoulder. Enter Ismael. At just over six feet tall, and with the build of a Saracens lock forward, he was a heavyweight among masseurs.

Ismael nodded his head in the direction of the wall, led me over to a sink and pointed for me to sit down on the marble floor. Then he took a plastic bowl and scooped up hot water from the basin and poured it all over me. He then produced a rough, textured glove and proceeded to scour me all over, starting with my arms and legs to remove any old skin scales. Then it was back to the slab where he indicated I should lay down on my back. He left me there for a couple of minutes and returned with what looked like two large see-through pillowcases full of bubbles. These turned out to be blocks of soap suds which he broke over me (very ticklish) and then rubbed up and down my legs and all over my chest and arms. This softening up process didn't last very long before the rough stuff started. I had never been manhandled by another man before and was unprepared for the strength he exerted on me. And that is precisely what you feel throughout the whole experience; his strength, not any hurt or discomfort.

The whole thing lasts about 20 minutes and incorporates every variety of pummelling and prodding, squeezing and squishing, and stretching and straining of neck, shoulders, abdomen, arms, thighs, calves and feet — nothing escapes. He even gave my scalp a massage, placing the heels of his palms on each of my temples, steepling his fingers over my head and squeezing his hands together in a vice like grip. This is a Turkish-style facelift, because that is what it does. Your face feels like jelly each time he lets go as it wobbles back into place.

A final wash and a slap on the shoulder told me it was all over. But, when I got upstairs the pampering went on. The attendant who brought me down was there to greet me again, sit me down and towel me dry. What had it been like? Actually, it was really good fun. I stepped out into the early evening sunshine feeling like one of those children in the old television advertisements who were all aglow after a bowl of porridge. But before I left I slipped Ismael a tip. He had earned it.

BOB MADDAMS



Concubines' apartments at the Dolmabahce Palace, shut for 100 years by the sultan, are now reopen

Where concubines slept

THE SULTAN's orders were precise. The concubines' apartments were to be closed for 100 years. Now they are open again, taking visitors still deeper into the vast Dolmabahce Palace, Istanbul, which in size rivals the Louvre. The concubines' apartments are just one stop on what already provides the fullest and most varied insight into royal life to be found in any European capital.

Over the past decade, work has proceeded at a furious pace in eight astonishing 19th-century palaces in Istanbul. Long derided as symbols of the decline and decadence of the Ottoman Empire, they are now re-emerging as among the most opulent, untouched surviving Victorian interiors.

"Every part of every royal palace must be on show or given a new use," says Metin Sozen, who has overseen the restoration of the palaces. Here for once is a curator who sympathises with the inquisitive visitor who wants to explore every recess. Where there is nothing to see, he installs beautiful displays of imperial treasures or sets up restoration workshops. At Dolmabahce there are studios for carpenters, wood carvers, furniture polishers, painters and upholsterers.

Dolmabahce, which was completed in 1853 for Sultan Abdul Mecid and built by the Armenian architect Karabet Balian, sits on the edge of the Bosphorus like a Venetian palace. Never has an obsession with symmetry been so indulged. There are not just matching doors on opposite sides of rooms, but matching fireplaces — four in the larger saloons. Every hall or saloon has its precise counterpart above or below as well as at the opposite end of the palace.

Imperial staircases abound — those designed with one flight branching into two — but the grandest here are double imperials, mirror images of themselves. You mount the first flight to find there are five ways to proceed, four up and one down again. Here are chimney pieces in red Bohemian crystal, enamel and ormolu, candelabra in fours not twos, crystal stair balustrades and Limoges door handles. And instead of the drugget which demeans so many palace interiors, visitors walk along hundreds of yards of specially woven red carpet.

None of this is a preparation for the great hall, a space that almost compares in volume with Santa Sophia. The columns along its sides are ranged three deep, a realisation in three dimensions of the fantasy palaces of Piranesi and his contemporaries.

Turkish custom decreed that the women of the household should never be seen. The perimeter wall, as it passes the sultana's apartments suddenly rises to three storeys. In exotic terms, the highlight of the tour is the Turkish bath, entirely panelled in alabaster brought from Egypt. By contrast, the concubines' apartments speak little of the arts of seduction — besides simple bedrooms with brass bedsteads and innumerable cots.

The climax of any Bosphorus trip has to be a visit to Kediv Kasri, built high on a crag in 1900 for the last khedive of Egypt. It has been restored as a hotel and restaurant by the Turkish Touring and Automobile Club.

For a very different and very commercial kind of restoration, brave a visit to the Ciragan Palace Hotel. Ignore the anonymous new building beside it and, preferably fortified by a large drink, enter the world of the Arabian Nights, seen not through the eyes of Disney, but Bombay.

MARCUS BINNEY

A JOURNEY TO ARABIA FELIX

Of all the lands in the Middle East, the Yemen - the 'Arabia Felix of the ancient world - is the least known and the most spectacular. Its scenery varies from the hot, semi-desert plains along the Red Sea coast, up through green rolling hills scored with innumerable terraces, to the towering mountains of its heartland, rising to 10,000ft or more; its inhabitants are the most colourful in the Arab world, while its architecture is unique and fascinating - whether in the mountain towns like Jibla and Thula or the desert city of Zabid, Sheba's dam at Marib or the intricately-decorated and many-storeyed houses of the capital, Sana'a.
The history of Yemen finds itself at a convergence of eras and cultures, at the crossroads of the spice, incense, myrrh and gold routes, the meeting point of the Far East and the Mediterranean. Through the centuries it has seen the influence of Ethiopians, Persians, Turks and, in the last century, the British whose influence is still felt.

ITINERARY IN BRIEF
We begin our journey with two nights in Sana'a before driving south to the ancient city of Taiz. We then head towards the coast to visit the fishing port of Hodeidah before returning to Sana'a for the final two nights. Throughout our journey we will encounter numerous villages and towns with a wealth of history, demonstrating a fascinating variety of architectural styles. In addition, the Yemeni people are friendly and hospitable with a surprising number speaking English.

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COOKING: In the golden triangle, preparing food is second nature. But Westerners can learn the secrets

The kitchen gods are in their Thai heaven

CHRISTOPHER GOW

Cookery teacher Khun Pip grinds the spices to make a red curry paste

Khun Pip is a cook by trade, a giggler by nature. Fluttering a hand in front of her mouth, she giggles at her own jokes, other people's jokes and between jokes. What makes her double-up with laughter is the notion of Western celebrity chefs who appear on television and write books on how to cook.

"Everyone cooks in Thailand," she says. "We are brought up learning how to prepare and cook food. It comes naturally. We don't need recipe books or strangers on television telling us what to do. It's second nature. Eating is our greatest pleasure."

Khun Pip is mistress of the Thai House, her home on the banks of a canal 45 minutes by long-tail taxi boat from the bustling centre of Bangkok. She and her husband, Khun Paiboon, have extended their golden teak building, with its steeply pitched wing-shaped rooftops inspired by temples, to accommodate a dozen or so *farangs* who prefer to experience Thailand by staying in a family-run guest house rather than in an hotel.

The palette has purple aubergine, green papaya, yellow, green and red chillis

Khun Paiboon engenders *sanuk* (a good time), pouring Singha beer, while his wife plays a more practical role in the kitchen. She has spotted a niche in the market. Not only does she cook for appreciative foreigners, she now teaches them how to do it.

It makes sense. From a standing start two decades ago, the UK now has about 500 Thai restaurants. Increasingly, the 250,000-plus British visitors to Thailand every year want to bring home a practical understanding of the food they have enjoyed on holiday.

Which is why a handful of us are in her shady open-air kitchen, chopping meat and vegetables and pounding spices with a mortar and pestle for tonight's dinner: green beef curry, stir-fried pork with yard-long beans and hot and sour prawn soup.

"Thailand has a special smell," she says. "It's called food." More specifically, lemon grass, coriander, kaffir-lime leaves, sweet basil, galangal (a close relation of ginger), garlic, coconut milk and fish sauce.

Among our number, a dab hand with the wok is Chris Gow who spent most of his late twenties and early thirties in Southeast Asia. He has now set up A Feast of Thailand, one of the ingredients in his activity-holidays programme which takes the form of ecofriendly tourism, assisting local development without being a destructive influence on native cultures and environments.

His pick-and-choose menu includes trekking through villages in the mountainous jungle of the Golden Triangle, riding rapids on bamboo rafts and paddling dugout canoes in tropical rivers, snorkelling in the warm waters of the Andaman Sea or cycling in Vietnam. "Thai cooking is bubbling to the top," says Mr Gow, who is more at home in a three-wheeled motorised *tuk-tuk* in Bangkok or a pedal-driven *samloh* rickshaw in Chiang Mai than he is in a London taxi.

The second day of our Feast of Thailand whistle-stop tour begins shortly after dawn with a visit to Bangkok's main fruit and vegetable market on the banks of the Chao Phraya river, the heart of Bangkok with its arteries of *klongs* (canals) stretching throughout the city. Much of the produce still comes down river in barge chains, sometimes three or four together pulled by one small tug, water lapping over the sides. They are supplemented by convoys of trucks carrying fresh vegetables which thread their way through the narrow streets nearby after the journey from farms outside the city.

The vast interior of the covered market is landscaped with mountains of fruit, vegetables, herbs and spices of every shape and colour. There are over 40 varieties of chilli alone, ranging from large and mild to a tiny terror whose name translates as "rat-dropping pepper". The palette of herbs, vegetables and fruit includes purple aubergine, green papaya, black pepper corns, yellow, green and red chillis. There are two dozen kinds of banana, as well as pineapple, jackfruit, mango, rambutan, mangosteen, melon, lychee, papaya, guava, coconut and that notorious delicacy, the durian.

"Eating durian has been compared to swallowing sweet pink blancmange in a Third World public lavatory," says one of our party later on. It is a remark which bears little comparison with our latest surroundings, now that we have progressed from the market to the opulence of the Oriental Hotel, whose plumbing was once the subject of extravagant praise from the King of Siam.

The hotel, "the old lady of the Chao Phraya River", has been voted the world's best. Visitors such as Somerset Maugham, Noël Coward and Joseph Conrad have praised its kitchens. For the past few years its offshoot, the Oriental Cooking School on the opposite bank of the river, has been sharing its culinary secrets with Western students keen to discover the finer points of Thai cuisine.

Here Khun Sansern, surrounded by a phalanx of assistants in starched kitchen whites, puts on a show worthy of a conjuror. He weaves magic with noodles. Different coloured dishes emerge from his wok like silk scarves from a top hat. His sleight of hand transforms fruit into carved flowers. After three hours, we say the magic words *kin hai aroy* — bon appetit — and make it all disappear.

Equally theatrical is the performance later that evening at Bangkok's Royal Dragon restaurant (*Mang Gorn Luang*). Sir Terence Conran would approve not only of the food from every region of Thailand but also of the gastrodomic nature of the operation. Billed by the *Guinness Book of Records* as the largest restaurant in the world, it seats 5,000 customers served by 1,200 staff, some of them on roller skates.

A Feast of Thailand is not restricted to table and tummy. You can pack in as much beach or temple as you want. Two days later we are in northern Thailand puttering up the Kok River in a faint morning drizzle, heading for a village of the farming Karens, the largest of the six hill tribes. Of Burmese origin, their women are skilled weavers of cotton tunics, often in red and orange, which they embroider and decorate with seeds.

Two by two we board elephants, which set off through the mountainous jungle, picking their way delicately along narrow, muddy paths made slippery by the earlier monsoon rain.

The nearest we get to civilisation on this part of the trip is our arrival, three hours later, at a village of the Mien, the most "Chinese" of the hill tribes. In contrast with the Karens, cotton dyed a deep indigo is the basic material for their textiles, embroidered with brightly coloured cross-stitching.

Our final day, though, is a homage to northern Thai food on the veranda of the stilted Teak Villa inn on a north-facing hillside overlooking the mighty Mekong river in the Golden Triangle: steamed fish in banana leaf, a mild chicken curry flavoured with Burmese turmeric, spicy sausage, chilli soup and sticky rice.

Across the murky water lies Laos. To the west is Burma and further north and north-east, a few horizons away, is China. A Singha beer is to hand, we feast well, and the kitchen gods are in their heaven.

ALASDAIR RILEY

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☐ The author was a guest of Symbiosis Expedition Planning — organisers of special-interest and adventure holidays in South-East Asia — the Tourism authority of Thailand and British Airways.

☐ A Symbiosis Feast of Thailand culinary tour (four days in Bangkok and six days in Chiang Mai and the north of Thailand or Bangkok and six days in either Phuket or Koh Samui in the south), with standard accommodation and return fights from London, costs from approximately £1,195 per person. Prices can vary, with holidays tailor-made to clients' requirements. Symbiosis Expedition Planning, 113 Bolingbroke Grove, London SW11 1DA (0171-924 5906).

REX FEATURES

Normandy castle towers over the quiet countryside where few Parisians venture

A feast of learning

Before we set off for Normandy, I asked a friend who has guided many tours through northern France what was so special about the region. Karen thought for a moment, then summed it up: "A stubborn lot, the Normans," she said.

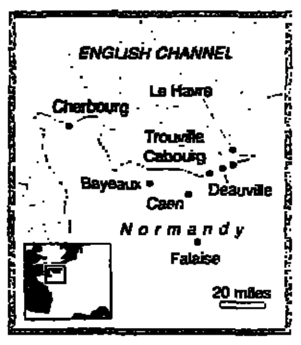
And so they are. In the most delightful way. They hang on to their traditions, even though they are within a couple of hours' drive of Paris. Pig-headed, their critics call them, but they like their cream and their Livarot cheese, their half-timber houses and their busy fishing ports.

Very non-English but not very far away. As an old man walking in the garden of our château hotel near Caen reminded me within two minutes of our meeting: "England is truly ours, you know. It belongs to the Dukes of Normandy."

Whether we are theirs or not, for the British visitor Normandy continues to be a revelation. The number of Parisians who spend leisure time in inland Normandy is amazingly small — and those who do head west are usually taking a break in the Belle Epoquery of Deauville, Trouville and Cabourg, a line-up of exquisitely old-fashioned resorts which see themselves as the Nice, Cannes and Menton of the North.

But the British visitor is more likely to be in search of good food, the centrepiece of our long weekend near Caen. Normandy has some dull towns, but every one has an exciting restaurant. One of the growing attractions is learning how they do it.

A guaranteed way to master the subtleties of Norman cuisine



Less than half an hour from Caen, Somerset-born banker Roger Vickery is enjoying his restored Château du Tertre and the Taste of Calvados courses masterminded by his chef, Jackie Renard.

From the intricacies of foie gras terrine to the subtleties of decorative flowers made from turnip and spinach, 29-year-old M Renard makes it a hands-on experience.

His cooking has had several influences, although it is now strongly founded on the Normandy tradition. He is half-Norman, half-Breton, married to Véronique from Alsace, and before coming to the Château du Tertre, he was chef at the Saint Paul, in St Paul de Vence, a centre of Provençal gastronomy.

Remembering that "those who love what they do, love to share it," M Renard reveals the chef's techniques during the course, his British guests hovering over every slice of the knife and shake of the pot.

While preparing duck livers, we learn that there is no such thing as "pâté de foie gras". If it is not 100 per cent foie gras, it is pork fat and pork liver. There has been little goose liver since the 1970s, we are told. It is now invariably duck liver and we create the basic materials for a complex terrine.

We slowly work on the chef's table, surrounded by smells of hot bread and sounds of bubbling stockpots and fizzing frying pans, until M Renard realises the time, and the lesson becomes a demonstration.

Mr Vickery says: "There has always been too much of the "we'll show you how to do that when you're a big boy". We try to give clients the nearest thing to a failproof system and the knack of good cooking." It certainly tastes wonderful.

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WILLY NEWLANDS

☐ The author was a guest of Powder Byrne (0181-871 3300) and P&O Ferries. The Taste of Calvados cookery course costs from £565, including ferry fare.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 27

BISTABLE

(c) Having two stable states, as, for example, with many chemicals. "Timothy is bistable. When he's asleep and when he's unconscious. Unfortunately he's unconscious only on Friday nights."

USUCAPTION

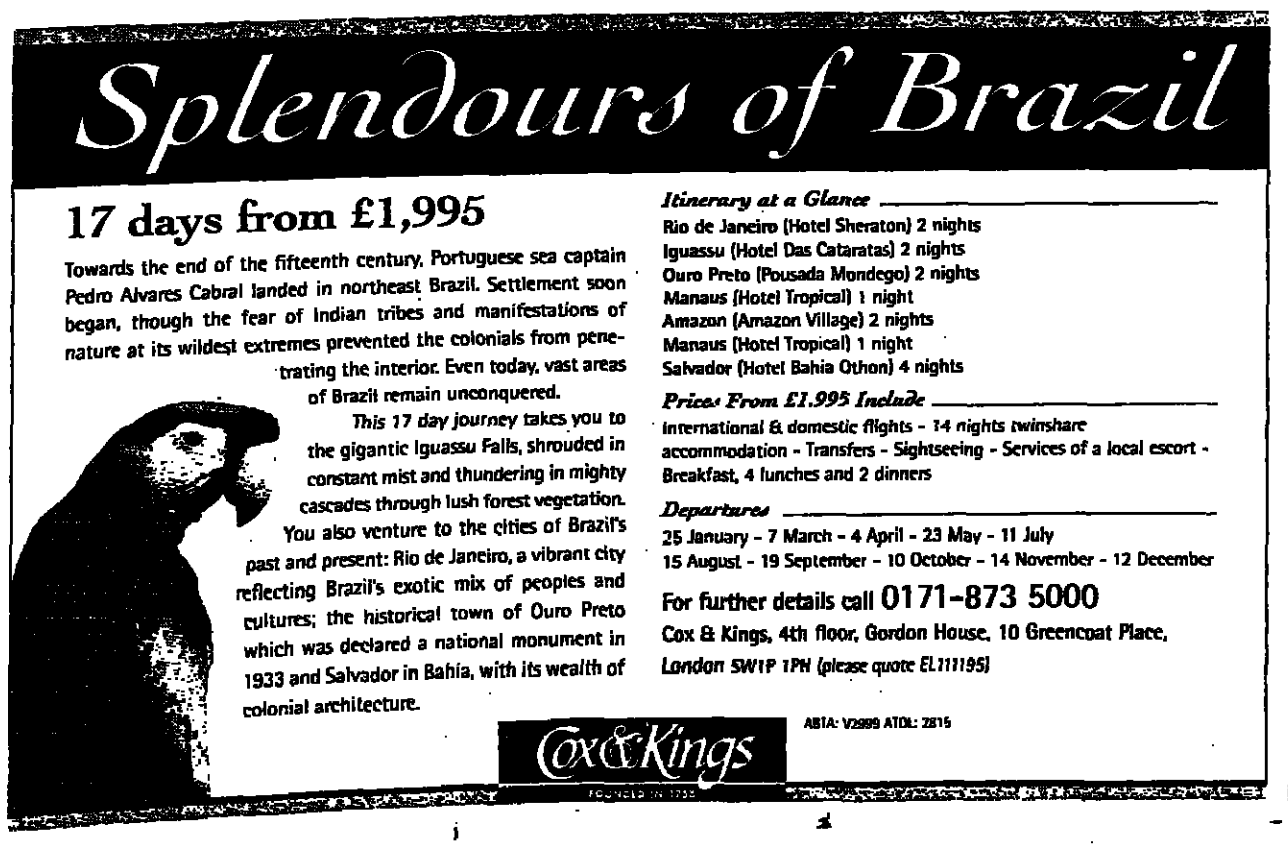
(c) The acquisition of property by right of long possession and enjoyment. A legal term, from the Latin for "capture by use". In the average household the bathroom is considered to be owned, by right of usucaption, by the youngest female adult, and the telephone by the oldest female child.

FUTTOCK

(c) A particular wooden component in the structure of a ship, too complicated to explain without a diagram. But fundamentally a crooked timber in a wooden ship. A ridiculous and suggestive word. If you have a keen yachting or otherwise nautical chum, make a point of greeting him/her: "And how are your futtocks these days, old thing?"

NOYADE

(c) Mass execution by drowning, as in revolutionary France. The technique was invented by a "monster of ferocity" named Carrier, and involved people being shut up in the hold of a ship, which was then scuttled in the Loire. This was called "Carrier's vertical deportation".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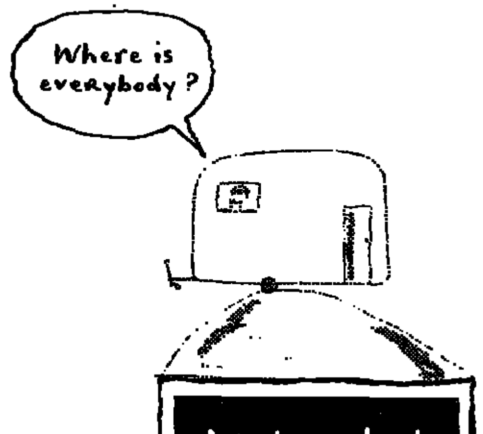
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Day 2 St. Nikola. Today you're free to explore this charming riverside village or to join an optional excursion to the orchards and vineyards of the Danube valley.

Day 3 Vienna. A full day's excursion is included and will reveal many of the famous sights including the Schoenbrunn Palace, the Hofburg, the State Opera House and St Stephen's Cathedral.

Day 4/5 Prague. We journey through beautiful countryside to the four star comforts of the Hotel Don Giovanni in Prague. This new hotel is air conditioned and has all the facilities you could want. It is close to the metro line with direct access to the city centre.

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Day 6 Prague. Another sightseeing tour is included - looking at the historic old town and the Charles Bridge - for 400 years the only link between East and West. After lunch there is an optional excursion to the Castle of Melnik, which includes a wine tasting. The evening is free to relax and soak up the atmosphere.

Day 7 Budapest. We leave Prague and, via Austria, journey into Hungary and Budapest. Our hotel is attractively positioned at the edge of the Danube on the Buda side of the city.

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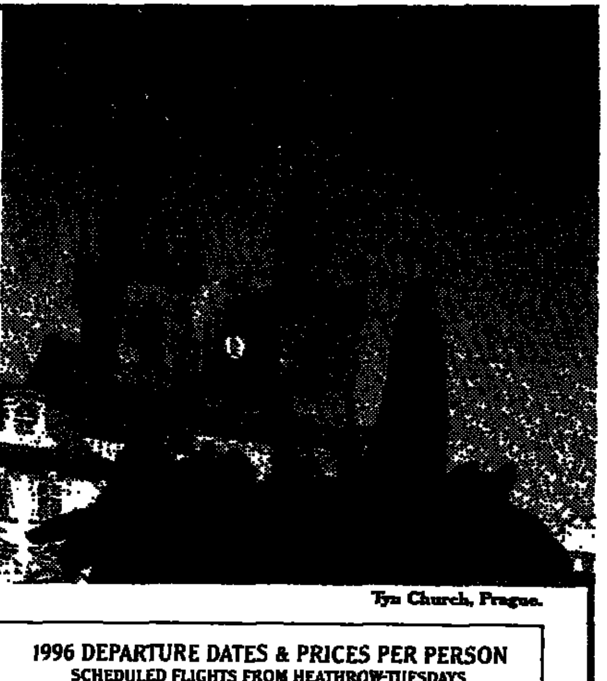
Day 9 Budapest. Today is free for shopping or sightseeing; or join our optional full day excursion to Estergom and Szentendre.

Day 10. Return to Vienna for the flight to Heathrow.



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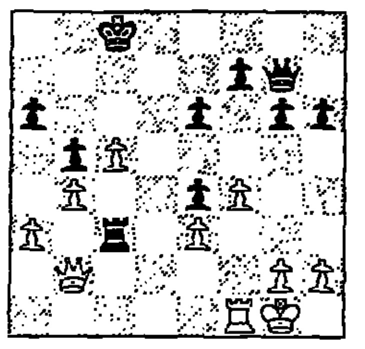
GAMES

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

DURING the World Championship, readers' queries and samples of play flooded in. As promised, this week I begin to publish the best examples. Everybody who writes to me receives a complimentary copy of *The British Chess Magazine*, and queries or games which are published are rewarded with a six-month subscription.

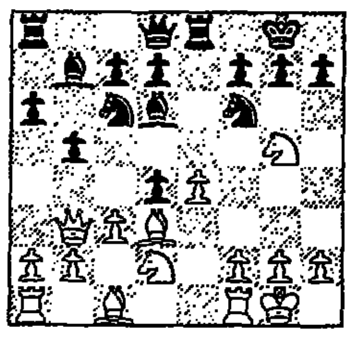
The first position is from the game Alekhine-Capablanca, World Championship 1927, which I published as a Winning Move on September 5. White has Black's rook in a nasty pin. What is the most efficient way to exploit this?



Solution: The immediate 1 Rc1 fails *because 1 . . . Rxc1+ is check. 1 Kf2!*, however, leaves Black defenceless against the coming Rc1, e.g. 1 . . . Qf6 2 g3: Black has no more tricks.

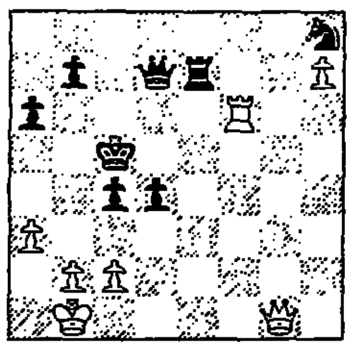
Kenneth Mackay of Sutton Coldfield *suggests that after 1 Kf2 Qf6 2 g3, the move 2 . . .* g5 causes White problems after 3 Rc1 gxf4. However, White can simply capture the rook with 4 Rxc3 and after 4 . . . fxg3+ 5 Kg1 gxh2+ 6 Kxh2 Qh4+ 7 Kg1, White will soon escape the checks. Mr Mackay also correctly suggests that 1 Rf2! with the same plan as in the game, i.e. Rc2, also wins for White.

The following position occurred *in the game between Andrew Cal*lander (white) and Prince Philipp of Liechtenstein, played at Hanbury Manor this October. White is to move. How should white exploit *the weak pawn on f7? The answer* reveals a checkmating combination with a queen sacrifice which can be learnt for future use.



In the game, White played 1 Qxd7+, which Black parried with 1 . . . Kh8. The way to win is 1 Nxf7 Na5 2 Nh6++ Kh8 3 Qg8+, and whether Black plays 3 . . . Nxg8 or 3 . . . Rxg8 4 Nf7 is checkmate.

The final position is from the game Lasker-Steinitz, World Championship 1894, which I published as a Winning Move on August 30. White is a piece down, but Black's king is dangerously exposed. How did White continue?



Solution: 1 Qg5+ Qd5 2 Rf5 wins the black queen.

Stanley Mackay of Epsom and Mr A Clark of Berkshire both suggest that White can force a quick checkmate by 1 Qg5+ Qd5 2 *b4+ Kb5 3 Qxd5+ Ka4 4 Qa5* checkmate. But this overlooks the possibility of 2 . . . cxb3 en passant, foiling White's plans. The en passant rule states that when a pawn *advances two squares it may, for* the next move only, be captured by a pawn as if it had moved only one square. Do not be tripped up by it.

PUNCHLINE

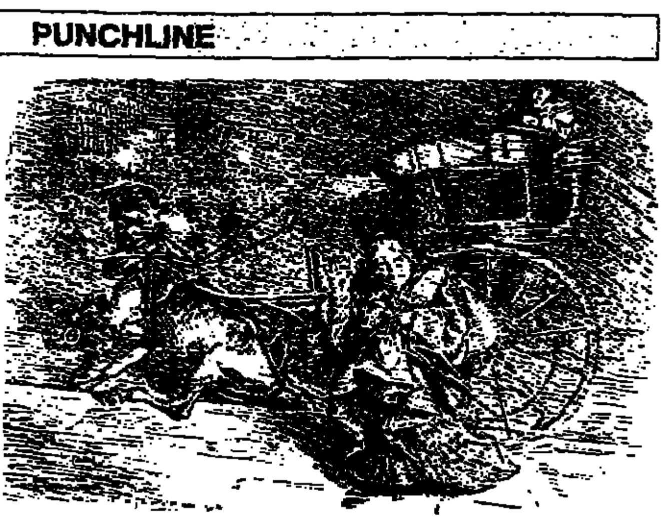
READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon, right. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Cartoon caption 82, Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, November 15.



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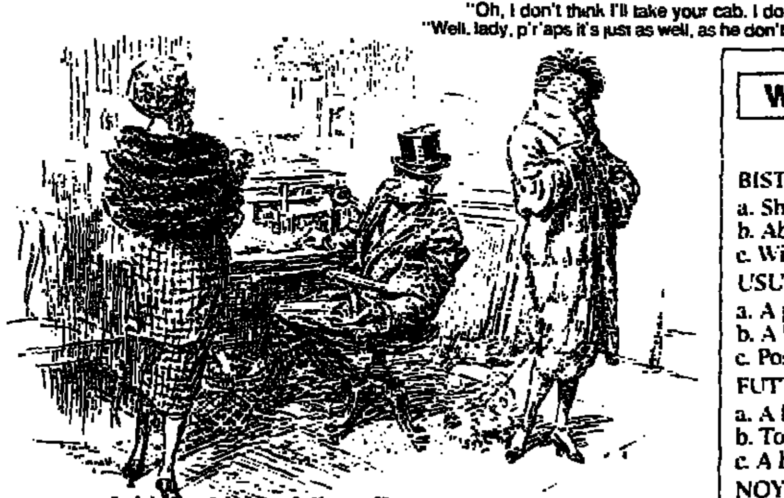
"Oh, I don't think I'll take your cab. I don't like the look of your horse."
"Well, lady, p'r'aps it's just as well, as he don't seem to like the look of you neither!"



"I think a bit has fallen off your coat, madam"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Mick Munday, of Andover, Hampshire

WORD-WATCHING

by Philip Howard

BISTABLE
a. Shed for horses and cows
b. *Able to be reversed*
c. With two states

USUCAPTION
a. A pithy saying
b. A horse's caparison
c. Possession

FUTTOCK
a. A horse's bottom
b. To play the fool
c. *A bit of a ship*

NOYADE
a. A *nuisance*
b. A north wind
c. Mass drowning

Answers on page 23

COMPUTER GAMES

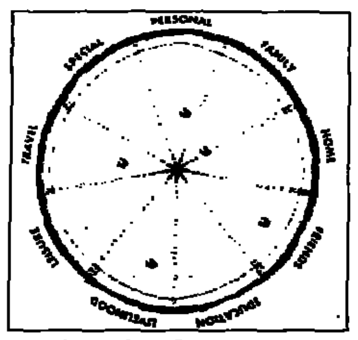
GENEALOGY, according to the *turn-of-the-century American writ*er, Ambrose Bierce, is "an account of one's descent from an ancestor who did not particularly care to trace his own."

Several titles allow you to go back to your roots. Expert Software's **Personal Roots**, for Windows on two floppy disks, provides a logical path through your *lineage. The first seeds that* are needed to grow your own family tree are details of parents, children, marriages and even multiple-marriages.

Next to *each entry you can add* photographs, anecdotes and other particulars. You can even attach medical notes on causes of death. A "missing information" feature highlights the gaps in your chart and data base as you progress.

The programme can apparently cope with up to two million relatives in a single family tree. If this is your family, then the label printing provision at least reduces the annual *nightmare when* it comes to sending out Christmas cards.

A different spin on the age-old idea can be found in Delrina's **Echo Lake**, a *multimedia* CD-*Rom. This lets you build up your* own interactive family album. You cannot plot a family tree as such, but tree rings are used to pinpoint the highlights of your family's story and balance the content — the innermost rings representing the most distant events.



Echo Lake's family album

Allowing you to be author, editor and publisher in one, it is simple to build an ambitious chronological autobiography. A prompt device helps to trigger memories and channel thoughts. As well as your own stories and pictures, you can call up archive imports from the disk — front-page headlines, clip-art, portraits, audio and video clips — to keep your unfolding tale in *historical context.*

This is an American product erratically updated to appeal to a British audience. There are pictures of Margaret Thatcher and Rocky *Horror, but beleaguered* John Major doesn't make it. The better British video clips, of which there are too few, include the Queen's Coronation.

Finished books can either be printed to paper or to floppy disk, in a self-standing form, enabling family and friends to boot up a book with no need for additional *software. But* **Echo Lake** doesn't come cheap. At £49.95 it is three times more expensive than Expert's **Personal Roots** (£14.99).

Veteran rockers, The Rolling Stones, do not feature in **Echo Lake**'s archives at all, and they only feature some of the time in Virgin's lacklustre **Rolling Stones Voodoo Lounge** CD-Rom. The opening sequence is almost an instant turn-off — you'll be subjected to a bunch of mediocre actors talking twaddle. The disappointment is enough to make four grown men cry.

TIM WAPSHOTT

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THE BEST bridge book I've read this year is *Dormer on Deduction*, by Albert Dormer (Victor Gollancz, £6.99). This hand is from his chapter *Deductions from the Opening lead*. How would you play Four Hearts on these cards?

Dealer West Love all

♠A 9 4
♥K 10 7 2
♦Q 4
♣A 10 8 5

N
W E
S

♠J 7 2
♥A J 8 6 4
♦9 8
♣K J 2

W	N	E	S
1♠	Pass	Pass	2♥
Pass	*4♥*	*All Pass*	

Contract: Four Hearts by South
Lead: five of spades

It is amazing how much the lead reveals on this hand. As West has not led the king of spades, he cannot *have the king-queen. Pre*sumably he doesn't have the ace-king of diamonds, or else he would have led that suit. Hence East must have the the queen of spades and *the king of diamonds, but as he* passed the opening bid he cannot have any other high cards.

So now you know that you should play West for both the *rounded queens. You win the spade* in dummy, cross to hand with the ace of hearts and lead the eight of hearts, finessing the ten when West plays low. You win a third round of *trumps with the king. East discard*ing diamonds on the second and third round of trumps.

Finally, you turn your attention to clubs. You know that West has *the queen, but what is the best way* to make four tricks in the suit? Can West have Q9xx in the suit? No, because that would mean West was 5-3-1-4, giving East eight diamonds *headed by the K J 10; with that he* would have bid on the first round of the auction.

So you complete your good play by playing king of clubs and a low *club towards dummy*, catering for West having either Qx or Qxx of clubs. The queen turns out to be doubleton; you unblock the clubs and cross to the seven of hearts to take your well-earned ten tricks. This is the full deal:

♠A 9 4
♥K 10 7 2
♦Q 4
♣A 10 8 5

♠K 10 8 5 3 ♥Q 9 5 ♦A J 10 ♣Q 6	N W E S	♠Q 6 ♥3 ♦K 7 6 5 3 2 ♣9 7 4 3

♠J 7 2
♥A J 8 6 4
♦9 8
♣K J 2

Here is a defensive problem, from the chapter called *Inference and empathy between defenders*. The hand is in the section on *Erasing your partner's losing options*. This is an important part of high-class defence. If you are in a position to take control of the defence you should do so; if you have an opportunity to take control but *don't, the inference is that you have* no clear-cut line of defence.

Dealer North Game All

♠Q 10 6 5
♥10 6
♦Q 10 9 8 5 4
♣9

N W E S	♠A 7 4 3 ♥Q J 2 ♦7 3 ♣J 8 6 3

S	W	N	E
2NT(1)	Pass	3♣(2)	Pass
3NT(3)	All Pass		

Contract: 3NT by South
Lead: five of hearts

(1) 20-22. (2) Asking for four-card suits upwards. (3) Clubs, no other suit.

The jack of hearts wins the first *trick, declarer playing the three.* You continue with the queen. South playing the eight and West the four.

It looks as though declarer is holding up the ace of hearts. If your *partner has the ace of clubs or the* ace or king of diamonds, you should continue hearts. But if he has none of those cards, you should play your partner for K10xx of *clubs. Which is it to be?* As Dormer points out, your partner is much less likely to have that club holding than any one of the other three key cards. Yet playing with a good *partner, the club switch is obliga*tory; you lead the jack. The full deal:

♠Q 10 6 5
♥10 6
♦Q 10 9 8 5 4
♣9

♠8 2 ♥K 9 7 5 4 ♦6 2 ♣K 10 5 2	N W E S	♠A 7 4 3 ♥Q J 2 ♦7 3 ♣J 8 6 3

♠K J 8
♥A 8 3
♦A K J
♣A Q 7 4

How do you know the club switch was the right play? Simple. If West had a diamond trick or the ace of clubs he would have overtaken the queen of hearts and cleared hearts. (Remember, declarer is marked from the bidding with only three of the suit.) So when West fails to overtake you must play him for the critical club holding.

If you get 50 per cent of Dormer's hands right before reading the analysis, *you are a good player.* Yet, even though *many of the* hands initially appear extremely difficult, after you have read the explanation, you have to agree with *the author's logic. Excellent stuff.*

WINNING MOVE

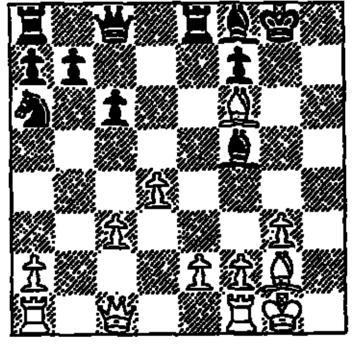
By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Chiburdanidze - Sharif, Lippstadt 1995. White has sacrificed a piece to open up the black kingside. Can you spot her key winning move?

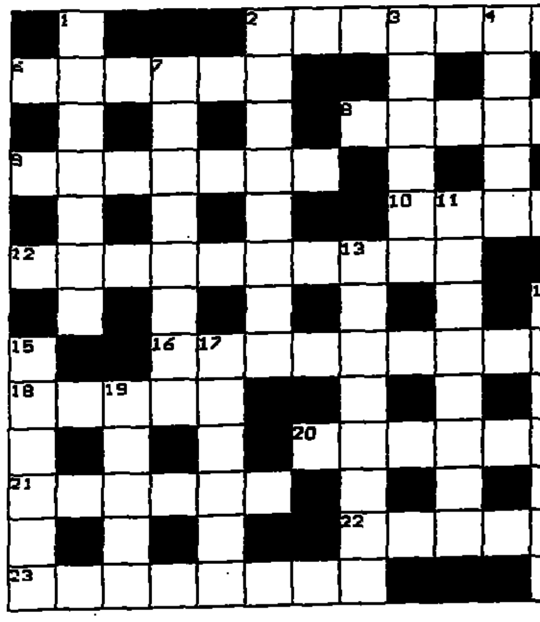
Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 ... Nd5.

Last week's winners: M Woolard, Brighton; D M Macarthur, Clifton, Bristol; G Mancey, Ashford, Kent.



TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No. 624

ACROSS
- 2 Fascinate; conspire (8)
- 6 An apple; its seed (6)
- 8 Poppy-derived narcotic (6)
- 9 Fool; — Brown, Snoopy owner (7)
- 10 Trail; aroma (5)
- 12 Aptitude; — Brown, gardener (10)
- 16 Cat's-whisker radio (7,3)
- 18 Small role; medallion (5)
- 20 Harvest store-room (7)
- 21 Help; compel (6)
- 22 Greek geometer (6)
- 23 Freedom (of action) (8)

DOWN
- 1 — Crompton, *William Brown* creator (7)
- 2 Endlessness (8)
- 3 Meal (6)
- 4 Where *John Brown's body* moulders (5)
- 5 Occurrences (6)
- 7 Specialised idiom (8)
- 11 *(Weather) bringing depression* (8)
- 13 One confined as enemy alien (8)
- 14 US state: *Sweet — Brown* (7)
- 15 *Tom Brown's* —days (6)
- 17 Cheap, nasty (alcohol) (3-3)
- 19 Cheat; to fine (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 623

ACROSS: 1 McGonagall 9 Forward 10 Bring 11 Emit 12 *Martinet* 14 Tattoo 15 Toggle 18 Outer Bar 20 Burr 22 Grind 23 Bramble 24 Talleyrand

DOWN: 2 Claw 3 Ordeal 4 Ambition 5 Alien 6 Lighthearted 7 Afterthought 8 Artist 13 Porridge *16 Grubby* 17 Camber 19 Twill 21 Yarn

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THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No. 3331: Polymath by Ix

EACH clue contains an extraneous word, of two or more syllables, possibly hyphenated. When this is ignored, there remains a normal clue to a word in *Chambers* 1993. This is to be entered in random order. The only proviso is that each unchecked square shall contain the initial letter of the extraneous word. In clue order, these spell out a Bacon quotation, which, like the title, has no other relevance.

Across
- 1 Scots intend to fidget — no time to slither about (6)
- 6 Once attained right to precede anything horse-drawn (6)
- 11 Star attraction with beat that's regular as purl knitting (6)
- 12 Rogue manservant pockets last letter from Victorian author (6)
- 13 I, Erasmus, wondering with Dante, set the old doom (9)
- 14 Composite tariff penalised Abo woman (8)
- 18 . . . while assistant returns what was not all there (4)
- 19 Put kaki in gingerbread (6)
- 21 Azed's worried about last edition of Observer, the little fox! (5)
- 22 Pole wrote *nationalistic poetry* about Troy (5)
- 23 Mad on this cake, Caroline upset apple-cart (6)
- 24 Tax formerly set before Lady Day (4)
- 28 Difficult landing in star-cluster; this covers flank (8)
- 30 NZ bird packing killer punch starts to revel in chintz (9)
- 31 Remove neoplasm covering end due to be operated on (6)
- 32 Fine cotton opening up? (6)
- 33 Does without view as windows shattered (6)
- 34 Old fashioned stuff, the Spanish lemon tree (6)

Down
- 1 *Given employment*, Prince took umbrage (9)
- 2 Runyon's bird revised old Damonesque line (4)
- 3 It's good to get into great physical-contact game, with *gigantic leader of maulers in confusion* (12, hyph)
- 4 Dry bits of toast and endless sandwiches for parties (5)
- 5 Slight hit troubled schooner: that's how bullets *were distributed* (7)
- 6 Comb catches last bit of hair in owner's trunk (5)
- 7 Once a *oncer*, sprig botanist put under ground (8)
- 8 Ceremony merited examination, to some extent (4)
- 9 *Marxists celebrated memo democrat sent* (12)
- 10 The listener understands why gee, shaken up, is lazy going around Yarmouth — it's to do with opposition (8)
- 15 "Pipe people" panel game — it can go with a bang (9)
- 16 Union ruling marks feudal service Scots once rendered (8)
- 17 Lackey's opening or orthopaedists' doors sorted out one's back problem (8)
- 20 With endless gusto, the Scots visitors own flower (7)
- 25 Artless one found in church's instructional body (5)
- 26 Head-gear beside fish that's deemed naughtily amusing (5)
- 27 A hero carries drug (4)
- 29 A valley, taken from estaminet ingle-nook (4)

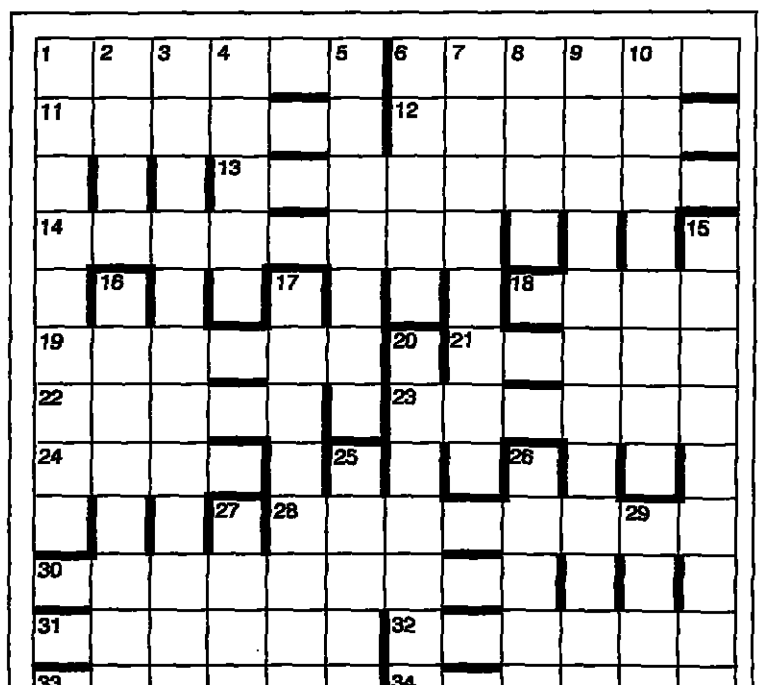
Z	I	N	C	E	D	C	A	S	T	I	C
E	B	A	Y	B	E	L	L	A	R	C	H
L	E	V	P	I	N	E	P	L	A	N	E
S	P	A	R	R	O	W	H	A	Y	E	S
S	E	L	E	C	T	W	A	L	N	U	T
Y	E	A	S	H	E	D	D	O	E	S	N
C	O	N	S	I	D	E	F	I	G	D	U
A	C	A	C	I	A	A	L	L	O	U	T
M	U	T	O	N	C	L	A	S	P	E	D
O	L	I	V	E	L	I	M	E	A	T	E
R	A	V	E	R	U	N	E	E	L	M	A
E	S	E	N	T	E	G	O	D	S	O	N

Solution to No. 3328: *"Would not you . . . ?" by Mynot*

This puzzle was dictated to the printer over the telephone on a bad line, so he printed what he heard (which may not be what the *setter intended). The line improved for a short* while, enough for him to hear that the unchecked letters of the unclued theme words would provide MCC A LUNG WE CAN BUY. When he came to print it, it was noticed that two clues were missing. However, efforts to re-establish communication with the setter failed, so the puzzle is printed with all its imperfections in the expectation that solvers will, as usual, overcome such obstacles.

The title was also mis-heard: it should have been "Wood (not yew)", and again, theme words (wood) provide . . . , so the theme words are all trees. The missing clues were 5 down and 35 down (CLEW and CLUE).

The winner is B.G. Midgley, of Crowthorne, Berkshire. The runners-up are Gwenda Meredith, of Wood Green, north London, and John Slater, of Easton, Wells, Somerset.



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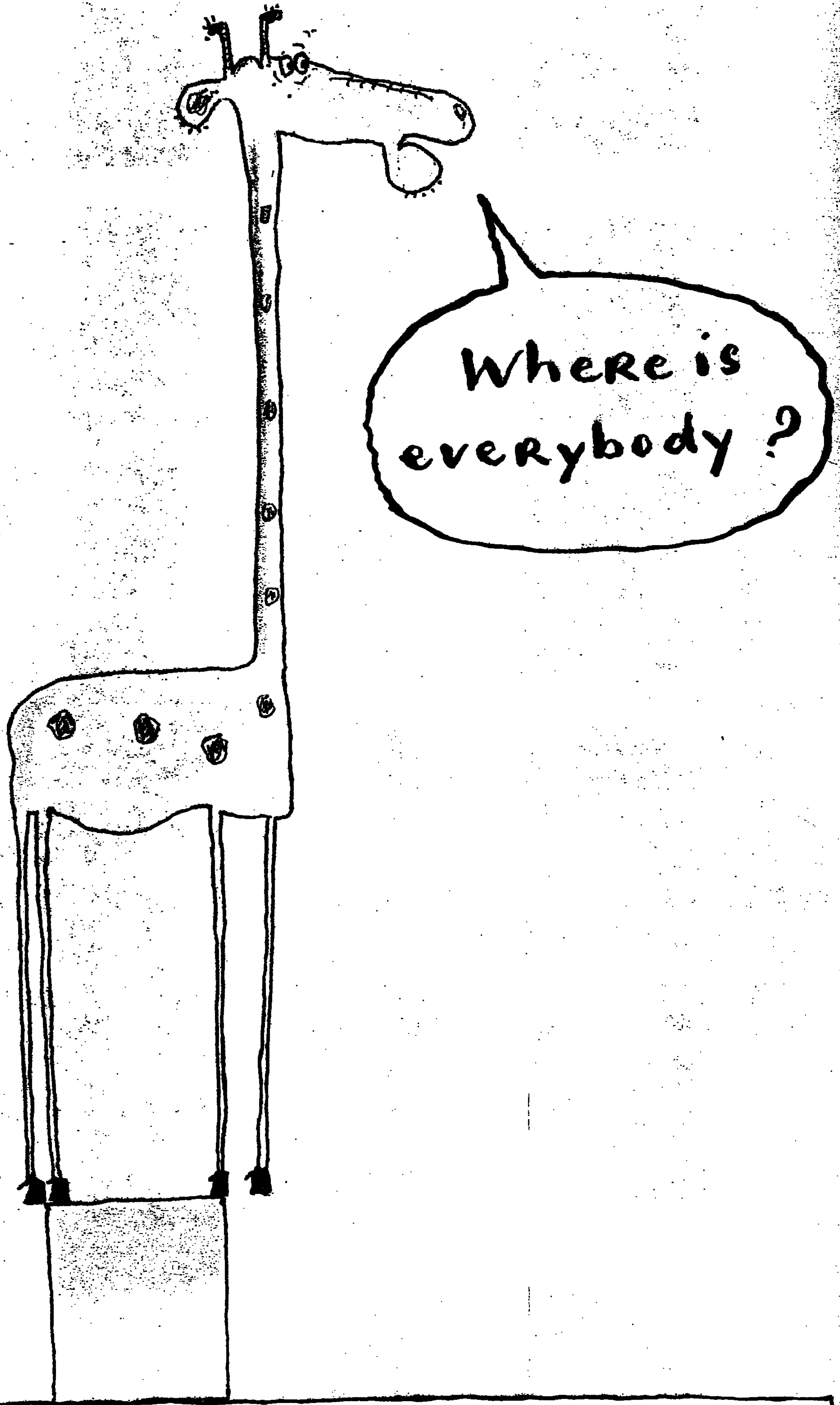
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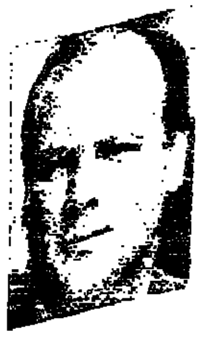

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BUSINESS EDITOR

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BUSINESS TODAY

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Swalec anger

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7

STOCK MARKET 28

Michael Clark on a difficult week for City traders

WORKING WEEK 27

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

Looking after number one for a living

SPORT 42-48

Football nomad in search of highest honours

THE HIDDEN ASSET OF KIELDER
Page 27

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11 1995

eRe is
body ?

ANDRE CAMARA

Little devils: John Harris (right), chairman of Alba, the hi-fi group, celebrates the acquisition of the Dirt Devil vacuum-cleaner distributor, with his finance director Andrew Rose. Alba is to pay around £1.35 million in cash for Dirt Devil, which had sales of £7 million last year

Customers may have to share British Gas loss

By Martin Waller, deputy city editor

CUSTOMERS may have to share the pain of the possible £1 billion losses that British Gas will suffer from the the huge and unprofitable contracts the company has with North Sea gas producers, the industry regulator says.

The result would be higher gas bills or less benefit to consumers from the opening up of the domestic market to competition in 1998.

The suggestion, in a consultative document from the Office of Gas Regulation, follows fears voiced by Clare Spottiswoode, the Director-General, that British Gas could face financial collapse if it is required to bear the entire burden of the contracts, taken out years ago when the company had no fear of losing its domestic monopoly.

Those contracts, on a take-or-pay basis, require British Gas to pay the producers whether or not their product is used. The coming of competition has brought other groups into the market with promises to undercut British Gas on price once they are allowed to.

Free competition is being brought in by stages. Next April half a million homes in the South West will be able to choose between gas suppliers. This will be extended to two million in the South a year later, and nationwide a year after. There have been predictions of gas bills falling by as much as 25 per cent as new entrants seek market share.

But the gas supply contracts, creating a "gas bubble" of unwanted product, will still bear down on British Gas, which is trying to renegotiate with the suppliers.

Ms Spottiswoode, who is required to maintain British Gas as a financially sound business as well as protecting the consumer, suggested last month that the City had underestimated the risk to the company, prompting a fall in the gas price. Since then all the parties have been trying to find a way out. But Ofgas has now, for the first time, suggested that consumers might bear some of the burden.

This solution was immediately rejected by consumer bodies. Ian Powe, director of the Gas Consumers Council, said: "We're alarmed that Ofgas should even consider compelling consumers to pay high prices to relieve British Gas of losses associated with long-term contracts."

The company welcomed the idea. Mike Alexander, managing director of British Gas Supply, said: "It is crucial to the introduction of fair and stable competition that restrictions which apply solely to British Gas can be lifted quickly when competition is under way."

The regulator says the price control formula governing how much British Gas can charge, which expires next April, could be used to relieve the company of the potential loss. But Ofgas is a long way from finding a definite method, and is inviting comment from interested parties.

One solution might be to apply a much less stringent price cap, for perhaps three years. All parties accept that competition will not arrive overnight for domestic gas users, and British Gas would then have a "window" to charge higher prices and so claw back some of its potential losses before being undercut by its new rivals.

Two difficulties remain. It is impossible at this stage to quantify the losses the company faces because they depend on the future price of gas. In addition, as accepted by Ofgas, a judgment must be made on how much of the pain should fall on customers and how much on the company, and on its shareholders.

Tempus, page 28
No guarantee, page 31

Court setback for importer

By Colin Narbrough

THE Port of Felixstowe, part of the global empire of Li Ka-Shing, the Hong Kong billionaire, has won the first round in a legal battle over its right to restrain £100,000 worth of lentils owned by a small London importer.

In the High Court yesterday, Mr Justice Clarke ruled that Felixstowe, Britain's biggest container port, was correct in its interpretation of its right to exercise lien over the 300 tonnes of split red lentils owned by A Poortman, the family-owned food importer.

The right to restrain goods, even when, as in Poortman's case, the importer has paid for them in full, is included in the terms and conditions of most ports in Britain.

Felixstowe restrained the cargo from Turkey two months ago to offset £80,000 of debts incurred by Euronave, a shipping line based in Antwerp which had gone into liquidation. Peter Bennett, deputy managing director of Felixstowe, who said that port users are fully aware of the terms and conditions, expressed sympathy for Poortman, but said the court had "vindicated" his company's position.

With the court finding against it on the initial point at the preliminary hearing yesterday, Poortman will next week seek rulings on other points.

A key issue on which Poortman will continue its challenge against the restraint of its goods will be whether the port's terms and conditions can actually be brought into play.

Portman's legal advisers take the view that such terms and conditions are not generally known to the users of the port and that the importer has no contract with the port that recognises them.

Robert Burkeman, a Poortman director, said his company was not prepared to comment on the case, as the legal action will continue.

WEEKEND MONEY

31
Anne Ashworth on the virtues of persistency

[illegible]

29
The risks of giving away your home

AGE

[illegible]

30
March to a regular beat. New accounts for small savers

INVESTMENT

35
Nordic stock market legends. The top trusts

COLLECTING

36
Picture emerges of an art market revival

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3523.4	(−18.2)
Yield	4.04%	
FT-SE A All share	1732.39	(−7.14)
Nikkei	17843.56	(+22.52)
New York:		
Dow Jones	4855.19	(−9.04)*
S&P Composite	591.98	(−1.28)*
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 11/16%*	(5 11/16%)
Long Bond	107 9/32*	(107 15/16)
Yield	6.32%*	(6.28%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	6 11/16%	(6 23/32%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	107 7/16	(107 19/32)
[illegible]		
New York:		
$	1.5765*	(1.5790)
London:		
$	1.5761	(1.5797)
DM	2.2247	(2.2301)
FFr	7.6735	(7.6910)
SFr	1.7987	(1.8185)
Yen	158.96	(159.16)
£ Index	83.8	(84.1)
[illegible]		
London:		
DM	1.4125*	(1.4113)
FFr	4.8705*	(4.8679)
SFr	1.1350*	(1.1390)
Yen	100.81*	(103.38)
$ Index	92.7	(93.0)
Tokyo close Yen 100.37		
[illegible]		
Brent 15-day (Jan)	$16.35	($16.35)
[illegible]		
London close	$388.95	($385.05)

* denotes midday trading price

Swalec anger

Welsh Water, forced by the Stock Exchange to disclose its intention to launch a takeover bid for South Wales Electricity, yesterday said that it would be unable to meet the Swalec board before the end of next week, at the earliest. The statement caused anger at Swalec. **Page 26**

Rover pioneer killed in crash

By Colin Narbrough

A YOUNG Rover executive who played the lead role in setting up a modern car industry in Bulgaria has been killed in a road accident in Serbia, the company said yesterday. Philip Burley, 28, from South Wales, died in a head-on collision with a mini-bus while driving his BMW back from Austria to Bulgaria.

Mr Burley, a high-flyer who had joined Rover's business strategy department in 1985 under sponsorship from Cardiff Business School, was deputy managing director and external affairs director of Rodacar, the car assembly joint venture that Rover set up with Bulgaria's Daru group.

Rodacar's assembly plant for Maestros, which opened at Varna on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast in September, was very much a product of Mr Burley's prodigious energy, skill and diplomacy.

The plant, 51 per cent owned by Rover, assembles kits from Rover's Cowley plant in Oxfordshire and is scheduled to produce 6,500 cars next year. In 1997, output is to be 10,000.

Mr Burley, a fluent Bulgarian speaker posted to Bulgaria in 1992, was one of the youngest members of the Institute of Directors and held the chairmanship of the Business in Bulgaria Association.

He had been regarded as being bound for a role at "the top of the motor industry".

Unilever edges up in Europe

By Alasdair Murray

UNILEVER, the Anglo-Dutch foods and detergents company, revealed yesterday that it had failed to clean up in its European markets, reporting sales figures of £11.7 billion, up just 2 per cent on the third quarter of last year.

Unilever is still suffering from last year's disastrous launch of Persil Power. The company has not restored the market share lost after it was revealed that the product could damage clothes and was forced to relaunch the brand at the start of this year.

The company said sales of the reformulated Persil were improving in the UK, as was market share.

Profits in Europe as a whole rose 6 per cent to £454 million, the hot summer ensuring booming ice cream sales in Northern Europe.

Overall, the company reported a 7 per cent increase in third-quarter profits to £768 million yesterday, on the back of a good performance in North America.

Unilever's performance in the rest of the world was disappointing, with profits for the third quarter growing by only £2 million to £191 million.

The City reacted positively to the results, relieved that profits were towards the upper end of expectations. The shares closed at £12.11, up 21p. The third interim dividend is 8 per cent higher at 7.05p.

Union counts up City block votes

By Philip Bassett
Industrial editor

BRITAIN'S pension funds now hold a quarter of all the shares in the UK's top 30 companies, according to a new analysis of shareholdings today.

The study, carried out by the GMB trade union, says its results confirm the operation of a new "block vote" in British industry, over which ordinary shareholders and employees have little if any direct control.

Leaders of the Apex white-collar section of the GMB union, which holds its annual sectional conference in Scarborough today, publish figures which look at pension fund shares as a percentage of total share capital in the top 30 UK companies ranked by market capitalisation. The GMB analysis ranks Barclays bank as having the greatest pension fund holding, with 42.3 per cent of its shares held by fund companies.

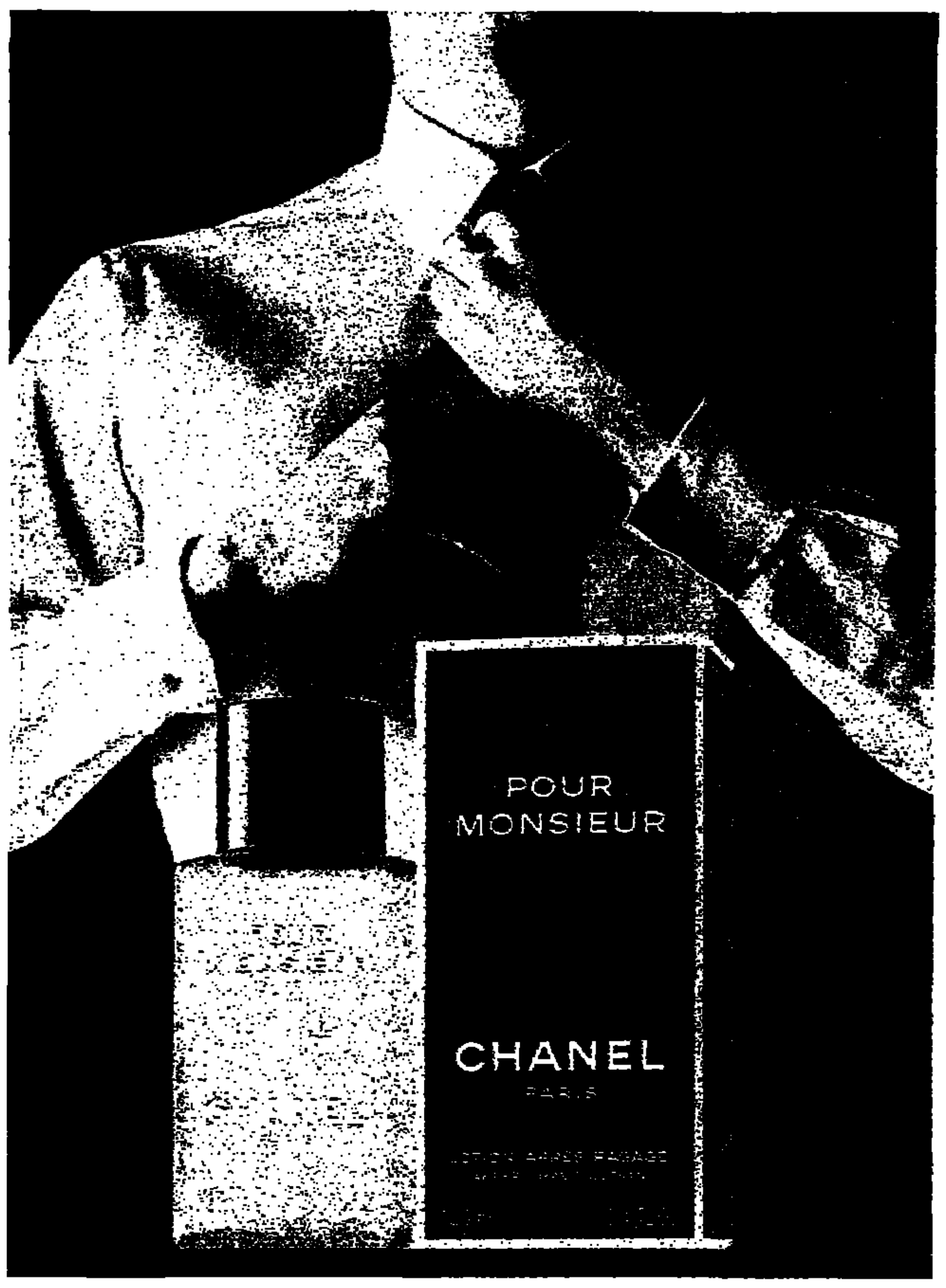
Second is BAT, with 33.1 per cent, followed by Glaxo, at 31.8 per cent, and then BTR (30.9 per cent), Shell (30.7 per cent) and Marks & Spencer with 30.4 per cent).

Among the top 30 companies, those with the lowest proportion of shares held by pension funds are Vodafone, with 3.9 per cent, National Power (4.4 per cent) and Abbey National and Tesco, each with 6.9 per cent.

The GMB says that among the top 30 companies, their directors hold a total of only 0.04 per cent of the shares, reducing both their involvement and their influence.

Sam Keating, who takes over this weekend as head of the GMB's 80,000-strong white-collar section, said: "There is a new block vote in operation in British industry — the block vote of the faceless pension fund managers."

The GMB says the pension fund vote is owned by ordinary people who have no say in how it is cast. Linking the analysis directly to the Confederation of British Industry's annual conference, which begins in Birmingham tomorrow, Mr Keating said: "The pension funds did nothing when the fat cats cashed in their share options. These figures show that the real owners can force them to become accountable."



POUR MONSIEUR
ELEGANCE IS TIMELESS
CHANEL

199

Welsh Water's delay angers Swalec's board

By Martin Barrow

WELSH WATER, forced by the Stock Exchange to disclose its intention to launch a takeover bid for South Wales Electricity, yesterday said it would be unable to meet the Swalec board before the end of next week at the earliest.

The statement caused anger at Swalec, on bid alert since Wednesday, and raised questions about institutional support for Welsh Water's efforts to create a super utility in the principality. Welsh Water shares eased another 6p to 703p yesterday.

Swalec shares rose a further 7p to £10.44 as the City wagered on a long, contested takeover battle between the two companies, which last locked horns in 1990. "Somebody has caused a lot of disruption to the business," a Swalec spokesman said yesterday.

Welsh Water has indicated that it would be prepared to offer about £10.20, valuing Swalec at little more than £1 billion. The offer is likely to comprise a mixture of debt and equity, although the company's advisers are also working on the structure of a cash alternative.

Graham Hawker, Welsh Water's chief executive, has refused to rule out a hostile bid. Yesterday, Swalec's advisers suggested that the company would fight to retain its independence rather than seek a white knight from among a number of power companies, mainly American, who want to gain a foothold in the UK electricity industry. Andrew Walker, chief executive of Swalec, said: "We have a viable long-term strategy."

The two companies bitterly disagree over the scale of cost savings that can be achieved by sharing a head office, and combining maintenance and billing services. Analysts estimate that up to £35 million can be saved; Welsh Water does not dispute the estimate, but Swalec believes that is not enough to justify a full merger.

Welsh Water argues that other considerations must be taken into account, including the tax savings that would flow from a merger and the cash-generative nature of Swalec's core electricity supply business, which would complement Welsh Water's hefty requirement for capital investment.

Welsh Water's previous attempt to merge with Swalec, initiated in 1990, ended acrimoniously. Welsh Water bought a 10 per cent stake to put pressure on the Swalec board, but subsequently placed the shares in the market two years ago at 460p a share.

Yesterday, Welsh Water said: "People in Wales believe Swalec will be taken over, one way or another. They would rather it was taken over by a Welsh company than an American one."

Neil Goulden is aiming to integrate 19 new outlets

Bowling strike for Allied

By Philip Pangalos

ALLIED LEISURE, the restructured tenpin bowling group, is expanding its operations to become the UK's market leader in tenpin bowling through the acquisition of Granada's bowling alley business for up to £19.8 million.

The purchase, involving 19 tenpin bowling units, will be funded through a 2-for-3 rights issue at 34p a share, raising £15.8 million, and new banking facilities, making a further £7.2 million available. The rights issue is fully underwritten by Panmure Gordon.

The deal will give Allied 35 units, making it market leader ahead of First Leisure; Bass; AMS, the US group; and The Rank Organisation. The 600 employees at Granada's bowling business will transfer to Allied, which is led by Neil Goulden, managing director, boosting the group's staff to about 1,100. Granada's bowling business made an operating profit of £2.4 million in the year to September 30, 1994, on turnover of £18.1 million.

Allied shares, which touched a low of 17p in February, held steady at 41p.

Tempus, page 28

Maxwell group did not need to fail, says Kevin

By A Correspondent

KEVIN MAXWELL yesterday told his Central Criminal Court fraud trial that he still believes that the Maxwell group of companies should never have collapsed.

In the months before his father's death, in November 1991, everything he did was coloured by knowing that, although the group had debts of perhaps £2 billion, its assets were far in excess of that figure, at £3 billion.

It was true that there were tremendous pressures because of liquidity problems and intense frustration at not being able to sit down and match inflows from asset realisations with debt outflows, he admitted. This was because his father insisted on spending millions of pounds trying to stop the decline in Maxwell Communications Corporation shares.

"Looking back over the year, nothing has dimmed that frustration," he said. "This was a group that didn't need to collapse."

On Day 101 of the trial, he told the jury that some of his co-directors had told lies to the court and others had written "rubbish" memos soon after Robert Maxwell's death to try to save their own skins. He claimed that one who had lied was Peter Laister, who became deputy chairman of MCC in November 1991.

"I don't think he was happy that I had been appointed chairman in his absence," Kevin said. "But he had said he would help to the best of his ability."

Kevin, 36, said it was true that they fell out over the conduct of the business. He added that Mr Laister had tried to get him fired in November 1991 and succeeded in doing so the next month.

Kevin said that while he was chairman of MCC, no fellow directors had suggested that his actions had made him guilty of wrongful trading in the civil sense or of fraudulent trading in the criminal sense.

Kevin, his brother, Ian, 39, and Larry Trachtenberg, 42, a former Maxwell aide, deny conspiracy to defraud by misusing pension fund assets. The trial is to resume on Monday.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Waigel seeks fines over monetary union

GERMANY'S position on the fiscal rules for European monetary union hardened yesterday when Theo Waigel, Germany's Finance Minister, said members exceeding the economic convergence criteria in the Maastricht Treaty should be fined. He said the stipulation that fiscal deficits should not exceed 3 per cent of gross domestic product should be regarded as an absolute maximum but countries should aim for only 1 per cent, while exceeding 3 per cent should trigger sanctions.

Herr Waigel proposed that a council should be set up to monitor adherence to the Maastricht criteria and a stability pact created to ensure countries keep to the criteria after the single currency is established. His statement follows similar comments by Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission. What happens after the single currency begins is not explicitly regulated by the treaty, Herr Waigel said.

Bibby returns to profit

J BIBBY & SONS, the industrial holding company that is 79 per cent owned by Barlow Rand of South Africa, has bounced back into the black with pre-tax profits of £32.9 million (£10.7 million loss) for the year ended September 30. Sales increased 17 per cent to £736 million. Last year's loss of 12p a share after exceptional items was converted into earnings per share of 12.1p. There is a final dividend of 4p, making a total of 5.75p, up 2.75p on last year. The shares rose 8p to 130p.

MR Data setback

MR DATA MANAGEMENT, the data transcription and document image-processing group, suffered a further setback with the resignation of Brian Boswell, its finance director. Colin Haycock, chairman, said restructuring had adversely affected UK sales during the first quarter and US sales were lower because of reduced orders from two major customers. Mr Haycock, a company doctor, took over in June after a boardroom split. The shares fell 3p to 63p.

Meyer quits Germany

MEYER INTERNATIONAL, the building products and timber group, is withdrawing from Germany with the DM35 million sale of timber and builders' merchants, laminates and flooring operations to Muhl Product & Service, bringing a £16 million exceptional loss. The buyer will pay DM22 million cash and assume debts and obligations of DM13 million. Meyer is buying K&B Forest Products from Harrisons & Crosfield for £18.3 million.

TRN sales cleared

THE £286.7 million acquisition by Trinity International Holdings of newspapers published by Thomson Regional Newspapers in England, Northern Ireland and Wales has been cleared by Jonathan Evans, competition and consumer affairs minister, after a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry. The MMC concluded the transfer of TRN's Belfast, Newcastle and Teesside centres would not affect the ownership concentration in these regions.

Writ against Lloyd's

JOHN DONNER, chairman of the Donner association of Lloyd's names, has issued a writ against Lloyd's and nine former officials, alleging breach of fiduciary duty in 1982 for failing to disclose knowledge of asbestos losses to names. Lloyd's has conducted two inquiries into Mr Donner's allegations, the last of which was completed this September. Both found that Mr Donner had no case and Lloyd's is expected to fight the writ in court.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.24	2.08
Austria Sch	16.70	15.20
Belgium Fr	48.84	44.54
Canada $	2.241	2.081
Cyprus Cyp£	0.751	0.696
Denmark Kr	9.26	8.46
Finland Mkk	7.27	6.62
France Fr	8.10	7.45
Germany Dm	2.36	2.17
Greece Dr	384.00	359.00
Hong Kong $	12.84	11.84
Ireland Pt	1.03	0.95
Israel Shk	5.1500	4.5000
Italy Lira	2615.00	2460.00
Japan Yen	173.00	157.00
Malta	0.594	0.539
Netherlds Gld	2.650	2.420
New Zealand $	2.56	2.34
Norway Kr	10.43	9.63
Portugal Esc	245.50	227.00
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.40
Spain Pta	199.00	186.00
Sweden Kr	11.13	10.33
Switzerland Fr	1.93	1.75
Turkey Lira	refer	78056.0
USA $	1.674	1.544

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Starlight Express

"It is a baby that has been bled dry. It would be great to have something where we could have some fun . . ."

Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber on Express Newspapers — Business, The Sunday Times tomorrow

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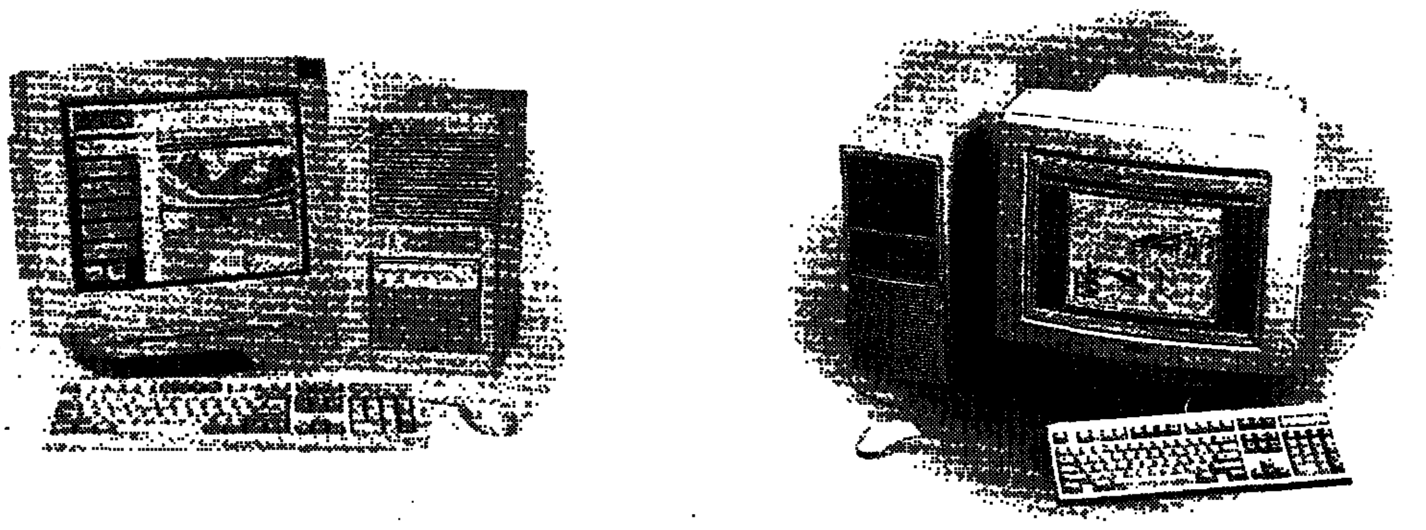

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Computerworld, October 9, 1995

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Windows Magazine, July 1995

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: KATHRYN BISHOP and SUE ABBOTT

Looking after number one for a living

Victoria McKee meets two PAs who cite the importance of old-fashioned values as they look after high-powered women executives

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

KATHRYN BISHOP did not attend the cocktail party in Bonn this week to celebrate the closing of a big deal between her company, Cable and Wireless, and Veba, a German "Goliath" of a telecommunications company, as she puts it, which is now C&W's partner in Europe. But she helped to plan it, and enjoyed a party with the rest of the team who put the deal together in London earlier this year.

Ms Bishop, PA (personal assistant) to the dynamic Director of Strategic Development for Cable and Wireless Europe, Susan Dark, was working 12 and 14-hour days like her boss in the months leading up to the deal. But she usually manages to leave the offices Cable and Wireless and Mercury share in the capital's Red Lion Square by 5pm after getting in at 7.45am. The two have worked together for 15 months.

"I'd been abroad for a long time working for Michelin, the tyre company, in Nigeria, so there wasn't any past history between us," explains Ms Bishop, who has a degree in modern languages from Lancaster University and has always tried to find jobs to make use of her knowledge of French, Italian and Spanish. "I'd been PA to the MD there, who was French, like all the heads of department, and, with Nigeria being an anglophone country, I was called on to do a lot of translation. When I came back, I was just temping with a bilingual agency. I said I wanted something unusual, so they mentioned telecommunications, very dynamic lady and business development in Western Europe which sounded intriguing. Susan and I hit if off right away, but the irony is that we spend a lot of time communicating with Germany now and I don't have that language."

> ‘I can always rely on her to sort out domestic crises’

Ms Bishop, 37, who is single, says she has always had wanderlust and has been able to indulge it. "I've always loved an adventure — I went off to Italy for a year, and had a year in Paris on my own as an au pair before university."

Being born in Kenya to parents in the Colonial Service, and brought up abroad, partly in Lebanon, might have contributed to her sense of "never feeling particularly at home in this country", although "I'm profoundly English". Her current job allows her to exercise her wanderlust in a more controlled manner from time to time, while expanding her international knowledge daily.

"My work involves co-ordinating meetings, and video conferences, with people around the world, because we're a federation with lots of international partners. So there's a rewarding sense of bringing people together."

She knows it is essential that the phones and faxes are staffed at all reasonable times. "I'm very aware of the first impressions we give," she says, "and that the phone can't ring and ring here, or that I can't take long lunch hours to go shopping or gossip with girlfriends, leaving the office unattended."

As Ms Dark travels a great deal, Ms Bishop likes to think of herself now as "base camp", and is able to screen calls, co-ordinate diaries, make travel arrangements — and take the type of decisions she believes her boss would sanction, in her absence. She also gets involved in the hiring of subsidiary secretarial staff. Her own shorthand and typing abilities are not things she boasts about.

"I don't really think they're so important in my job," she says. "What is important in my job are the old-fashioned virtues of loyalty and trustworthiness, organisation and diplomacy, and the ability to think quickly — those are things that can't be taught.

"The way technology has taken over the working environment, lots of the bosses are now quite self-sufficient — they type their own letters, send their own faxes, make their own spreadsheets and produce their own slides for presentations. It's a far cry from years ago with the manager who could only hit the intercom.

"But what you cannot replace by machines is organising things, talking to people, explaining what is going on. So a secretary's role is no longer 'Take a letter, Miss Bishop' but has evolved to take on more administrative tasks — to foresee situations, to be more pre-emptive, to send out the right signals to people — to free the manager more."

Executive salaries are designed for executive responsibility, since executives do not claim overtime, but does Ms Bishop ever resent the discrepancy between her salary and that of her boss. "No," she says briskly. "I think I'm very well paid."

Sue Abbott, PA to Mary Spillane, managing director of Color Me Beautiful image consultants, also feels "I'm adequately remunerated for what I do in terms of my responsibility next to management responsibility".

Although her normal working hours are 8.45am to 5.30pm, she, too, takes on that sense of executive responsibility which all good executive secretaries have, admitting that "I'd never ask for time off in lieu of a late night or a weekend day spent working — but I also know that Mary is fair and flexible, and if I did ask for time off I'd get it. It works both ways."

There is a fair bit of weekend working in the image consulting business, with Ms Spillane last weekend making headlines for advising the Conservative Way Forward Group on its image at the invitation of Lord Parkinson. She advised them to "get real" by dressing down (the opposite of her advice to Liberal Democrat candidates last month, who were told they needed to dress more professionally).

Ms Abbott has been with with her boss 11 years — long enough to know instinctively which callers she would have antipathy towards and which to let through. "I screen all her calls — nobody will go through to her straight away, because she doesn't have time. I think I can read her well," she says. In addition to the flood of inquiries about political party dressing, and the regular corporate calls from companies wanting to update their image, as Christmas nears there are the inevitable queries about party dressing. "Then there are the routine Friday afternoon calls, when I think journalists have got together in the pub, to ask if the type of knickers you wear says something about your personality."

Ms Spillane may be asked for comments on anything from what the colour red means to whether Labour candidates should wear red ties, and Ms Abbott tries to make sure she is adequately informed in advance on each request.

As two working mothers — Ms Spillane's daughters are 12 and 10, while Ms Abbott's daughter is nearly 21 and her son is 17 — they met when Ms Abbott was thinking of getting back to work and Ms Spillane needed more help after her first child was born. They've been together 11 years, and have seen the business change in that time from a one-woman band operated from Ms Spillane's home to an international consultancy with a London office and separate training centre and 1,000 consultants in 28 countries.

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

"I worked part-time at first, and when Mary started writing her books — *The Complete Style Guides* — I did all her typing. That was when we really started to get to know each other, with the stresses of deadlines and long hours."

Ms Abbott, 48, who did a secretarial course at the City of London College, previously worked at the BBC, and when she left to have her children had been "senior secretary to the head of presentation" at White City. "I'd always preferred jobs that weren't standard issue like accountancy, law, solicitors' offices — you can get them, but they're so dull." She was put in touch with Mary via the local photocopy shop which both frequented.

At the BBC, she recalls, "I used to have someone underneath me to open post and type speeches." Now, she does everything. "I find it useful to wear trouser suits because I never know what I'll be doing" — changing tanks on the water-cooler, unloading deliveries or going to a seminar with her boss.

She looks cool, calm and competent in the peacock blue suit and is aware of dressing in her appropriate colours so as not to let the business down, "even though Mary never insisted on that, or pressured me into it in any way".

Ms Spillane appreciates Ms Abbott's influence in every aspect of her life. "If I've travelled and the systems break down domestically — the nannies who've cut fingers off or don't pick up the kids, or whatever — Sue has handled everything. I can always rely on her to sort out domestic crises in a way you couldn't rely on a husband, family or friends."

Ms Abbott agrees with Ms Bishop that the traditional secretarial skills are not the key factor. "It's an ability to get on with people, a sense of humour — and discretion. And I still believe that, despite all the technology we work with, if you work as a PA, what you're actually doing is looking after the person."

ADRIAN BROOKS

ANDRE CAMARA

Sue Abbott, left, is PA to Mary Spillane, managing director of Color Me Beautiful; Kathryn Bishop provides a "base camp" for when her boss is away

HIDDEN ASSETS

Putting a new complexion on a white elephant

Lindsay Cook discovers a little-known source of liquidity for a water company

Every geography student knows that the Kielder Reservoir is the largest reservoir in Europe, but until this week they might not have known that it was owned by Northumbrian Water. Even some shareholders might have had their doubts as it does not get a mention or a picture reference in the company's 1995 annual report.

This week, however, the company and Kielder Reservoir were both in the news. Yorkshire Water is buying millions of gallons from the reservoir to stave off standpipes in the Yorkshire streets and Lyonnaise des Eaux was given the go-ahead by the Department of Trade to bid for Northumbrian Water.

A thousand tanker loads a day are to be transported from Long Newton Reservoir, which is served by the Kielder, and taken on the journey to a reservoir near Leeds in drought-stricken Yorkshire.

The Newcastle-based water company must be thanking the foresight of its predecessors, because the deal to sell up to six million gallons a week to its neighbouring water company is bringing in £1 million a week. And that is with the company generously supplying the water to Yorkshire at cost — just £5 a tanker load — to avoid rota cuts in Calderdale and Kirklees.

It is probably not surprising that Northumbrian has not promoted the reservoir because, until this summer's drought, it was regarded as a £167 million white elephant. That was the cost of construction of Kielder, which was opened in 1982 by the Queen. It was funded by grants from the EEC, the European Investment Bank, British government grants to assist less-favoured areas and customer charges levied by the then Northumbrian Water Authority. Since then, it has received grants from the Sports Council, the English Tourist Board and the Countryside Commission.

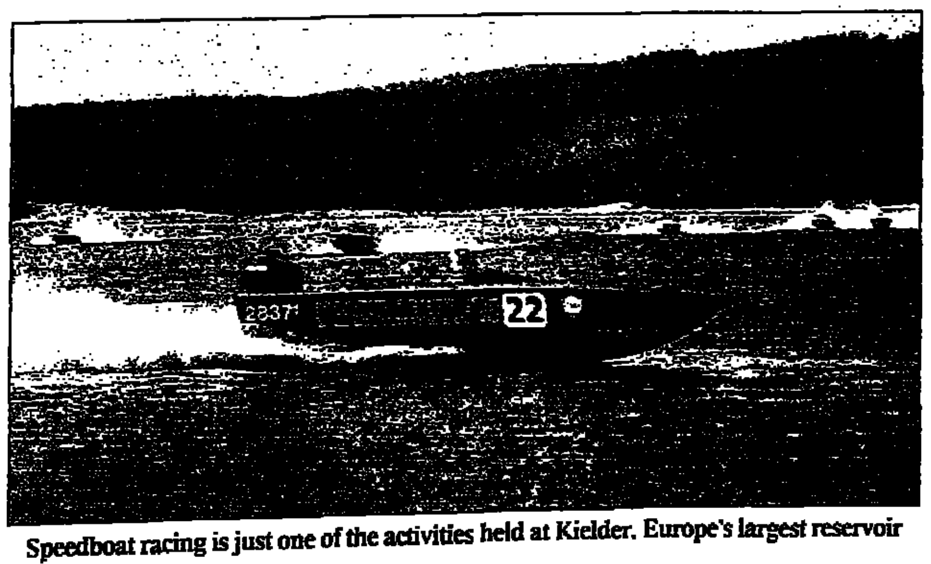
The reservoir, which has a surface area of 2,684 acres, will hold 44 billion gallons of water. Currently it has about 40 billion gallons — its deepest point is 170 feet — and it is also used as a water sports centre. It is a fishery of international importance and this year the English Confederation of Flyfishers held their national finals around the 27 miles of Kielder shoreline.

Some 50 boats are used to fish the water, a ferry takes visitors round the reservoir, and a yacht club and a boating club are well-established there. British water ski champions use it to train on, marathons are run round it, there is an annual Kielder Challenge Walk and horse-riding and commando training take place on the shores and in the surrounding forest.

Not surprisingly, Kielder has become the largest tourist attraction in Northumbria, with some 300,000 visitors to the man-made lake and its wildlife centres each year. However, swimming is not allowed for safety reasons.

The reservoir's main job is to make sure that there is enough water in the county, which has uneven rainfall. The idea was first mooted in 1974 before the previous big drought year of 1976. "It underpins the water supply for the North East. We had no hosepipe bans or restrictions in the summer. Without it we probably would not be able to help out Yorkshire," said Alistair Baker of Northumbrian Water.

While the reservoir and its dam are a source of British pride, they could soon be under the ownership of Lyonnaise des Eaux, the French company, which this week heard it would have to make only minor price cuts to customers if its proposed takeover bid goes ahead.



Speedboat racing is just one of the activities held at Kielder, Europe's largest reservoir

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DAILY EXPRESS, 1st NOVEMBER 1995

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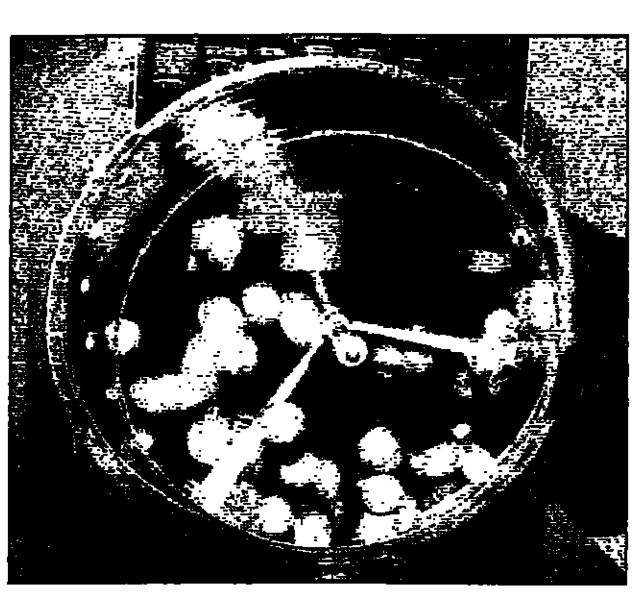
STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

American debt wrangle unnerves investors


The National Lottery remains a worry for Ladbroke and Rank

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S game of brinkmanship with the US national debt provided a nail-biting time for investors on the London stock market.

Government securities and equities were struggling to contain hefty losses at one stage, fearing another sizeable shakeout on Wall Street. In the event, the Dow Jones industrial average behaved itself, enabling London to close above its worst.

The FT-SE 100 index finished 18.2 down at 3,523.4, having been almost 29 points off earlier in the session. The rise on the week was 23 points.

But there can be no disguising the fact that it has been another difficult week for traders, made all the more unpalatable by the prospect that they must wait two more weeks before the Chancellor unveils his Budget proposals.

Many of the big securities houses will have suffered further trading losses this week and those that have managed to break even have been fortunate and will no doubt be breathing a sigh of relief.

For the best part, most of the market-makers will have attempted to maintain level positions, unwilling to move long or short in case market sentiment shifts in the opposite direction.

The difficulty facing them was again reflected in the low turnover numbers, with just 595 million shares changing hands. There was the usual bout of takeover speculation, which provided the excuse for a sharp mark-up in those shares. This time the focus of interest was **Zeneca**, up 20p at £12.39, after briefly touching £12.50, on turnover of less than 2.5 million shares.

In the past, its name has been linked with Roche, the Swiss pharmaceutical group. Sandoz has also been tipped as a potential suitor.

The insurance sector was a flat market with **Royal Insurance** losing a further 12p at 362p after disappointing third-quarter figures on Thursday. **General Accident** also took a tumble, losing 19p at 634p during transactions involving less than 100,000 shares. This served to highlight some of the problems being faced by market-makers.

Ladbroke continued to reflect on Thursday's profits warning with a fall of 7p to a new low of 125p. The group says that the National Lottery was continuing to take a toll on profits from its betting arm. *Brokers have responded by slashing their pre-tax profit estimates for the full year by about £25 million to £125 million. They say the outlook for the group remains gloomy.*

The impact of the National Lottery is also being felt by **Rank Organisation**, Britain's biggest bingo operator, with the shares holding their own yesterday at 408p, but down 15p on the week.

Elsewhere in the leisure sector, **Allied Leisure** remained static at 41p after announcing plans to acquire Granada's ten-pin bowling business for almost £20 million.

The deal will be funded via a two-for-three rights issue at 34p, raising £15.8 million. A further £7.2 million has been made available by new banking facilities. Allied says the deal should enhance earnings in the current year.

Granada finished 17½p down at 645p, worried by reports that television advertising is tailing off.

MAID, the publishing group, extended this week's gains with a rise of 6p at 350p, cheered by a revival of institutional demand. Brokers who follow the stock say its case has been served by the recent news that Microsoft had sold its stake in rival **Dorling Kindersley**, 1p firmer at 511p, after earlier weakness.

Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch food and household products group, climbed 21p to £12.11 on the back of third-quarter figures, in line with market forecasts.

The main thrust to profits came from the sale of Walls ice cream during the hot summer. Brokers expect profits for the full year to grow from £2.38 billion to £2.5 billion.

W H Smith jumped 17p to 412p, with **John Menzies** adding 8p at 633p. The newspaper wholesalers have come up with a plan to head off complaints from the supermarket chains.

Earlier this month, Tesco said it would try to make its own distribution arrangements with newspaper publishers. This would have punched a gaping hole in the profits of the wholesalers.

An hour before the official start of trading, **Bensons Crisps** threw the market into confusion by announcing that it knew of no reason for the recent rise in its share price. It finished 1p down at 25p. Earlier this month the price hit a low of 16p but has been subsequently revived by a series of bullish City presentations. The company has told brokers that pressure from rising costs has eased and that price rises to supermarkets are holding. It is hoping to break even at the year end after making losses of £600,000 in the first half.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Prices suffered early losses, reflecting concern after publication of the latest CBI distributive trades survey showing a sharp rise in retail spending last month. This was in spite of reassurance from economists that the upwards movement was just a blip and that the overall economic picture remained gloomy.

Sentiment was further depressed by worries about the US budget.

But after falls of more than £½ were recorded, the bargain-hunters made a welcome return, enabling prices to close above their worst.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt touched a low for the day of £106¹³/₁₆ before reducing the deficit to just five ticks at £107⁷/₁₆. A total of 61,000 contracts were completed.

Among conventional issues, benchamark Treasury 8 per cent 2013 fell £³/₁₆ to £99⅜, while, at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 lost a similar amount at £103.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares remained under pressure at midday amid growing concern over the outcome of the debt-ceiling wrangling in Washington.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 9.04 at 4,855.19.

Firecrest leapt 91p, to 153p, after landing exclusive UK rights to market and distribute the DigiPhone software package, which lets Internet users telephone anywhere in the world via the Internet for the price of a local call. Camelot Corporation, maker of DigiPhone, will take a near 10 per cent stake in Firecrest.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Ladbroke	125½p	-28½p	Profits warning
Seeboard	633p	+102p	Central & South West bids 635p
South Wales Elec	£10.44	+118p	Welsh Water proposed bid
Welsh Water	703p	-41p	Considering bid for Swalec
Northumbrian Water	£11.08	+105p	Lyonnaise bid gets go-ahead
Hickson International	85p	-14p	Profits warning
Calor Gas	238p	-19p	Profits warning
Royal Insurance	362p	-26p	Disappointing trading news
Rank Organisation	408p	-15p	Competition from National Lottery

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	4855.19 (-9.04)
S&P Composite	591.98 (-1.28)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	17843.56 (+22.52)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	9411.85 (-85.98)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	454.75 (+2.03)
Sydney:	
AO	2126.2 (-5.5)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2172.17 (-20.65)
Singapore:	
Straits	2069.89 (-20.03)
Brussels:	
General	7807.47 (+0.99)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1843.04 (-9.59)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	696.50 (-2.50)
London:	
FT 30	2576.3 (-14.7)
FT 100	3523.4 (-18.2)
FT-SE Mid 250	3902.3 (-6.0)
FT-SE-A 350	1754.5 (-7.6)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1410.17 (-11.13)
FT A All-Share	1732.39 (-7.14)
FT Non Financials	1836.26 (-5.41)
FT Fixed Interest	112.62 (-0.33)
FT Govt Secs	93.94 (+0.80)
Bargains	27658
SEAQ Volume	624.7m
USM (Datastrm)	186.29 (+0.72)
US$	1.5755 (-0.0032)
German Mark	2.2246 (-0.0097)
Exchange Index	83.8 (-0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.1865
£:SDR	1.0574
RPI	150.6 Sep (3.9%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	149.2 Sep (3.1%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Abtrust Asian Sml	92	...
Abtrust Sml Cos Wts	32½	+ ½
Alpha Omikron	18	+ 1
Arion Props	9	- 1
Benfield & Rea	101	...
Charnwell Intl	50	...
Creos Int	124	+ 17
David Glass (60)	66	- 5
Entrprs Inns (145)	150	- 1
Guinness Flight	90	...
Guinness Flight U	191	...
Guinness Flight W	10	...
Heritage Baths (125)	153	...
Indpt Radio	114	...
Intl Greetings	523	...
MultiMedia (45)	61	+ 1
Northern Venture	97	- 3
Perp UK Sm C (100)	99	- 1

RIGHTS ISSUES

First Choice n/p (60)	1½	- 1½
Quality SP n/p (535)	107	...
Rhino Group n/p (8)	4½	...
Stordata Sols n/p (12)	10	...
Sprscpe VR n/p (330)	81	- 33
Wellington U n/p (100)	¼	- 1¼

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Unipalm	710p (+83p)
Airflow Stream	280p (+23p)
Johnston	335p (+20p)
Micro Focus	678p (+30p)
Mitel	388p (+16p)
WH Smith	412p (+17p)
Lamont	234p (+8p)
Rainford	404p (+9p)
Kingfisher	491p (+9p)
FALLS:	
Parkland	186p (-12)
Royal	362p (-12p)
Gen Accident	634p (-19p)
Sun Alliance	357p (-9p)
Legal & Gen	652p (-14p)
BAT	533p (-11p)
BAA	485p (-9p)
Com Union	605p (-10p)
Cadbury Schw	536p (-8p)
Provident	800p (-14p)
Lloyds Abbey	445p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 41

TEMPUS

Creeping anxiety

THE pussyfooting over the British Gas take-or-pay contracts will have to end soon. The company is beginning to look like an old house with a dangerous gas leak. The Department of Trade and Industry has cordoned off the street and the technicians at Ofgas are attempting to quantify the problem. Meanwhile, the next-door neighbours, the North Sea oil companies who are supplying BG with high-priced gas, are beginning to look nervously at the police and firemen circling BG's slightly dilapidated mansion.

The neighbours could not disguise their glee at the thought of seeing the rich old lady next door get her come-uppance. However, as time passes, the smell of gas is worsening and the oil companies' *Schadenfreude* is giving way to anxiety. What if the house blows up? Will the explosion damage our house as well?

Yesterday's Ofgas consultation document deftly skirted round the issue. There is little point debating how to pass on the cost of gas when free competition is around the corner. If British Gas cannot reduce the cost of its gas, it will lose customers to competitors.

British Gas would like the producers, the Government and the oil companies to thrash out a deal where each party takes a little pain. The oil companies, having put up with the BG monopoly for so long, are not feeling co-operative but BG does have a potential weapon. Ring-fenced from British Gas, there is no reason why BG should endow the new British Gas Supply business with substantial assets. An undercapitalised domestic supply business could be left to fail with the Government and the oil companies left to clear up the mess.

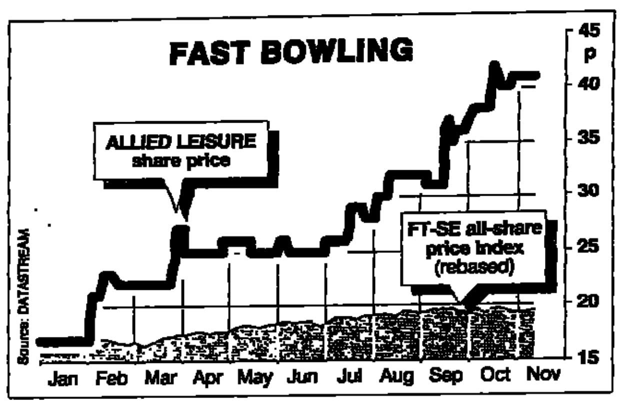
Allied Leisure

TENPIN bowling is not to everyone's taste but the revamped Allied Leisure believes it has scored a strike with yesterday's deal. The purchase of Granada's 19 bowling alleys for up to £19.8 million catapults Allied into the number one slot in the UK bowling market with 35 units, well ahead of First Leisure, Bass, AMS, and Rank.

Even on historic trading profits, Allied has paid a multiple of only 6.5 times for Granada's bowling business *and is not taking on any of the central costs.* The deal should enhance earnings and provides other synergies.

Like bingo, the relaxed sport of bowling was thought to be recession-resistant. However, faced with depressed consumer spending, many UK bowling alleys have cut prices over the past 18 months. Measures to attract punters through the doors include gimmicks such as computerised scoring and fancy lighting. The introduction of drinks, food and amusement machines at Allied's Mega Bowls means that bowling accounts for only about half of group turnover. Burger Kings and Pizza Huts are also planned.

Looking forward, the new and improved Allied is operating on a more sound financial footing. With anticipated earnings of 4.5p a share in 18 months, the multiple on the ex-rights price of 38.2p is 8.4 times. Not an expensive gamble on a business which should deliver strong cash flow.



Unilever

UNILEVER has been scrubbing hard to remove the stain on its reputation caused by last year's bungled Persil Power launch. The new washing powder proved too powerful for its European consumers to stomach and the City soon washed its hands of the company's shares. Estimates suggest that the debacle cost Unilever about £250 million, and it lost much of its toe hold in the £6 billion European washing powder market.

Yesterday, the company showed signs of modest recovery. Unilever indicated that Persil's market share was up by a third in the UK, although still below its pre-power launch. More important, conditions are improving in Europe, especially in the lacklustre German market. The City warmed to news of a performance that was not spectacular, but at least had the merit of reliability.

Better market conditions should provide a healthier earnings increase of 10 per cent next year. Its shares are never exciting — they tend to trade at around the market average — but the new improved Unilever is unlikely to put a hole in your pocket.

Vero Group

YET another fast-growing supplier to the telecoms and network communications giants is coming to the market. Vero makes metal boxes to house electronic equipment, a similar business to Rainford, the family-owned supplier to Nokia which launched on the market at 270p in April and is now trading at 404p.

The spectacular success of Rainford has encouraged Vero's sponsors who have priced the issue at the top end of the earlier indicated range of 200-220p, but there is no reason to believe that the valuation is aggressive. Vero is being sold on a multiple of 17.5 times a forecast of pro forma earnings of 12.6p in December, and the market is expecting growth of 20 per cent over the next year. That compares with a forward multiple of some 20 times market forecasts for Rainford's profits to the end of March, and there are some reasons to believe that Vero may be a safer bet.

The driving force behind all these companies is the exponential growth in sales of networking systems and mobile phones. Vero supplies racks and power suppplies used in mobile phone base stations, and the doubling of the number of phone subscribers in OECD countries has kept Vero busy.

Ericsson, Vero's biggest customer, accounts for 13 per cent of turnover, while Rainford is locked into Nokia which takes 50 per cent of sales. While Vero has a wider business base, it is less strong in digital technology. Vero's earnings growth may therefore be less sensational, but more secure.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Dec	938-937	Mar	1053 SLR
Mar	970-969	May	1068-1066
May	986-985	Jul	unq
Jul	1006 BID	Sep	-
Sep	1026-1024		
Dec	1039-1038	Volume: 3861	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Nov	2550-2540	Jul	2150-2149
Jan	2351-2350	Sep	2105-2100
Mar	2282-2280	Nov	2070-2050
May	2203-2202	Volume: 1895	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Aug	319.3-18.8
Spot: 382.5		Oct	291.3-90.2
Dec	367.0-65.5	Dec	285.5-84.6
Mar	335.0-34.3	Mar	294.0-82.2
May	326.5-26.0	Volume: 1588	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on November 9

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	101.07	109.85	129.64
(+/-)	+0.24	+2.38	+1.66
Eng/Wales:	101.20	110.39	129.46
(+/-)	+0.43	+2.99	+1.87
(%)	-1.0	-9.0	+15.0
Scotland:	89.66	106.84	130.67
(+/-)	-17.47	+1.55	+0.68
(%)	+26.0	+10.0	+4.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	16.65	-0.30
Brent 15 day (Dec)	16.60	-0.10
Brent 15 day (Jan)	16.35	n/c
W Texas Intermediate (Dec)	17.80	-0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Jan)	17.55	n/c

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 185 (+1)	O: 188 (-2)
Gasoil EEC	157 (-2)	158 (-2)
Non EEC IH Nov	156 (-2)	157 (-2)
Non EEC IH Dec	156 (-2)	157 (-2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	85 (+1)	86 (n/c)
Naphtha	152 (n/c)	154 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)
GAS OIL

Nov	n/a	Feb	152.00-52.25
Dec	152.50-52.75	Mar	150.75-51.00
Jan	153.00-53.25		Vol: 47407

BRENT (6.00pm)

Dec	16.61-16.63	Mar	16.00-16.04
Jan	16.35-16.36	Apr	15.91 BID
Feb	16.16-16.19		Vol: 31308

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Nov	125.75	Nov	120.00
Jan	128.50	Jan	121.40
Mar	130.60	Mar	123.60
May	132.60	May	127.00
Jul	134.75	Sep	112.50
Volume: 485		Volume: 50	

POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Mar	unq	270.0
Apr	288.5	278.8
May	unq	335.0
		Volume: 106

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Dec 107.75-108.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Nov 95	1795	1765	1790
Dec 95	1800	1760	1600
Jan 96	1765	1735	1749
Apr 96	1715	1695	1705
Vol: 673 lots			Open Interest: 3747

Index 1636 +35

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	3015.0-3016.0	2915.0-2817.0	1625725
Lead ($/tonne)	688.00-688.50	687.00-688.00	144300
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1034.0-1034.5	1056.5-1057.0	301575
Tin ($/tonne)	6385.0-6390.0	6425.0-6428.0	20310
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1647.0-1647.5	1681.0-1681.5	1027900
Nickel ($/tonne)	8405.0-8410.0	8505.0-8510.0	37302

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
Alld Dom.	460	27	35	39	11	14	22
(*480½)	500	9	16	20	35	36½	44½
Argyll	280	23½	30½	34½	5	8½	14
(*298)	300	11½	19½	23	13½	17	23½
ASDA	90	10	11½	14	2½	3	4½
(*96½)	100	4½	6½	9	6½	8	9
Boots	550	26½	39½	47	11	17½	24½
(*564)	600	7½	16	23½	43½	47	52½
Br Airways	460	26	39	46½	9½	14½	21
(*476½)	500	7½	19½	26½	32½	36	41½
BP	460	22½	31	37	7½	14½	18½
(*474½)	500	5½	12½	18	31½	36½	39½
Br Steel	140	17½	21½	23½	1½	3½	5½
(*157)	160	5½	11	12½	10	12	15
C & W	420	17	32	39½	15	22	28
(*422)	460	5	15	22½	42	46½	51½
CU	600	30	40	47½	17	33½	37
(*604½)	650	11	18½	26½	48½	65½	68
ICI	750	48½	58½	69	8½	23	27½
(*780)	800	20	30½	42½	30½	48½	52½
Kingfishr	460	41½	52	56	5	15	20
(*490½)	500	16	28	34	20½	34	39
Land Sec	550	36	47½	55	5	9	17½
(*582)	600	8½	19	24½	29½	32½	43
M & S	420	14	25½	29½	11	15½	21
(*421½)	460	2	10½	14	42	43	46
Nat West	600	55½	63	74	6	18½	27
(*642)	650	23½	33½	47	25½	42	51
Sainsbury	390	15½	26	30½	10½	14	19½
(*393½)	420	5	13	17	31	33	37½
Shell	700	49	60	63	3	10½	14½
(*737)	750	16	27	33½	19½	33½	37
Smkl Bch.	600	52½	65½	75	5½	12½	15½
(*644½)	650	19½	35	45½	23	31½	39½
Storehse	280	18½	25	32½	5	9½	12½
(*293)	300	8½	14½	21½	15	18	22
Trafalgar	30	5	7	8½	2	2½	3½
(*34)	35	2½	5½	6½	5	5½	6½
Unilever	1200	36½	57	68½	18½	36	41
(*1211½)	1250	13½	31½	44	49	64½	68½
Zeneca	1200	79	105	126½	25½	49½	60
(*1239)	1250	50½	77	99	40½	72	82½
	Series	Nov	Feb	May	Nov	Feb	May
Grnd Met	430	19½	33½	39	1	15½	18½
(*438½)	460	0½	14	20½	22	37	40
Ladbroke	120	6½	14	16	1	5	9½
(*125½)	130	1½	8½	11½	6	9½	14½
Utd Bisc	260	3½	10½	23	4	12	16½
(*260)	280	0	8½	14½	20	24	29½

	Series	Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
BAA	460	31½	44	50	6	9½	15
(*485)	500	10	21½	27½	24½	27½	33½
Thames W	500	54½	67½	75	3½	7½	17½
(*545)	550	20	37	43½	20½	25½	39½
	Series	Nov	Feb	May	Nov	Feb	May
BAT Ind	500	37½	49½	56½	0	10	17
(*533)	550	1	21½	29	17½	31½	42
BTR	330	3	14½	19½	2½	10	16
(*331)	360	0	4	9	29	29½	35½
Br Aero	700	37	68	77	0½	15½	27½
(*736)	750	4	39½	50½	17½	36	50
Br Telcm	360	10	19	25½	1	11	12½
(*368)	390	0½	6½	12	22	30	31
Cadbury	500	36½	54	58½	0	9½	16
(*536)	550	2	26	31½	16	29	39
Guinness	460	17	33½	39	1	10½	17
(*476)	500	0½	13½	18	24½	30	38
GEC	300	20½	27	34	0	5	7½
(*320)	330	1	10½	17	10½	18½	21
Hanson	191	4	9½	—	1	8	—
(*194)	211	0	2½	—	17	22½	—
LASMO	140	12	17½	20½	0	3½	5½
(*152)	160	1	7	10	8	12½	14½
Lucas	180	16	22½	26½	0	3½	6
(*196)	200	1	11	15	5	11½	14
Pilkingtn	180	5	13	18½	1	7	8½
(*183)	200	0	5	9½	17	19	20
Prudential	390	11½	28½	33½	1½	12½	20½
(*399½)	420	0½	14½	19	20½	27½	37
Redland	300	28	38	43½	0	4	8
(*327½)	330	2½	19½	25	5½	13½	21
R-Royce	140	19	23½	25½	0	1½	3½
(*159)	160	2	10	13	2½	8	11
Tesco	280	4	15½	19	2½	10	15½
(*280)	300	0	7	10½	20	22	27½
Vodafone	260	5	17	24	2½	12½	16
(*262)	280	0	8½	15½	18	24½	27½
Williams	300	27½	34½	38½	0	2	6
(*327)	330	2½	14	18½	4½	11½	18

FT-SE INDEX (*3522½)

	3400	3450	3500	3550	3600	3650
Calls						
Nov	125	78½	38½	13	2½	1
Dec	156½	118	83	54½	32	18
Jan	175	138	108	80½	59	41½
Feb	198½	163½	134	105	83	61
Jun	250½	—	187½	—	136½	—
Puts						
Nov	2½	6	16	43½	88	138
Dec	22½	35	52	75	106	146
Jan	37	50½	70½	94	123½	158½
Feb	50	65½	85½	109½	137	168½
Jun	99½	—	135	—	183	—

	Series	Calls Dec	Mar	Jun	Puts Dec	Mar	Jun
Abby Nat.	550	19½	35	39½	12½	29½	34
(*552½)	600	3	14½	19½	48	62	66
Amstrad	280	17½	27	35½	9½	12	16½
(*289½)	300	8	17	25	15½	22	26
Barclays	750	27	48½	57	15	34½	41
(*757)	800	7½	25	35	46	64	70
Blue Circ	300	19½	30	33½	4½	10	17
(*313)	330	5	15	18½	20	25	32½
Br Gas	220	21	28½	30½	2	5½	8½
(*238)	240	7½	16	19	8	13	18
Dixons	390	35	46½	54½	3	10½	14
(*418½)	420	16½	29	36½	13	22½	26½
Forte	240	9	16½	19½	5	10	14
(*242½)	260	2½	7½	10½	18	21½	25½
Tarmac	80	4½	9	10	3	5	7½
(*81)	90	1	4½	6	9½	11½	13½
Hillsdwn	160	6	11½	12½	4½	8	14
(*160½)	180	0½	4	5	19½	21	27
Lonrho	160	9½	13½	17½	3	8	9½
(*165)	180	2	5	9	15½	19½	21
Sears	100	5½	8½	10	1½	3½	5½
(*103)	110	1	4	5½	7½	9	11
Thm Emi	1450	99½	97	134½	26	44	46½
(*1477½)	1500	33½	70½	107½	52	68½	71
Tomkins	240	10½	17	23	4½	10	12½
(*244)	260	2½	8	14	17	21½	23½
TSB	390	16½	20½	22	9	25	25
(*394)	420	4½	7	9	28	42½	45
	Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
Glaxo Well	850	36	53	65½	22	42½	50½
(*852)	900	15½	30	44	52½	71½	79
HSBC	900	48½	72½	86	23	48	59
(*915)	950	25½	48	62½	50	75½	96
Reuter	600	33½	48	61½	17	27½	34
(*610)	650	13	24½	38½	46	54½	61
	Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
Royal Ins	360	20	28	35	13½	26	31
(*361½)	390	8	15½	23½	32½	45	49
	Series	Dec	Mar	Jun	Dec	Mar	Jun
Fisons	260	4½	4½	9½	0½	0½	0½
(*264)	280	0	0	0	18	18½	20
	Series	Nov	Feb	May	Nov	Feb	May
Eastern Gp	950	25	28½	27	0½	1½	2
(*974)	1000	0½	0½	0½	26½	32	37
	Series	Dec	Mar	Jun	Dec	Mar	Jun
Natl Pwr	500	12½	23	36½	13½	20	29½
(*500½)	550	1	6½	16½	55	56	60½
Scot Pwr	360	14½	20	28	7	15½	17
(*364)	390	3	7½	14½	26½	33	35

November 9, 1995 Tot: 27196 Call: 13470 Put: 13726 FT-SE Call: 6718 Put: 3611

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 68980	Dec 95 Mar 96	3539.0 3557.0	3539.0 3558.0	3515.0 3546.0	3532.0 3556.5	9895 199
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 3537	Dec 95 Mar 96				3915.0	0 0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 357730	Dec 95 Mar 96 Jun 96	93.36 93.58 93.58	93.37 93.59 93.60	93.32 93.50 93.50	93.35 93.55 93.55	9258 20650 11914
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 110	Dec 95 Mar 96				94.27 94.61	0 0
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 839957	Dec 95 Mar 96	96.03 96.20	96.07 96.26	96.02 96.20	96.06 96.25	9573 13039
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 114967	Dec 95 Mar 96	107-10 106-19	107-17 106-19	106-26 106-10	107-14 106-26	61284 110
Japanese Govmt Bond	Dec 95 Mar 96	121.97 120.61	122.15 120.80	121.94 120.59	122.07 120.71	2270 1249
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 213982	Dec 95 Mar 96	97.20 96.60	97.32 96.70	97.03 96.48	97.24 96.64	101511 1134
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 21532	Dec 95 Mar 96	94.42 94.57	94.42 94.57	94.36 94.54	94.40 94.58	1040 798
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 54656	Dec 95 Mar 96	97.93 98.13	97.98 98.20	97.93 98.13	97.98 98.20	1456 1580
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 48116	Dec 95 Mar 96	102.60 102.30	103.09 102.61	102.52 102.30	103.01 102.61	29290 160

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¾ *Finance Hse 7*
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7 Low 6 Week fixed: 6⁹⁄₁₆
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6⁹⁄₁₆; 3 mth 6¹⁷⁄₃₂. Sell: 2 mth 6½; 3 mth: 6⁹⁄₁₆.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6⅝-6⁹⁄₁₆	6¹⁹⁄₃₂-6¹⁷⁄₃₂	6¹⁹⁄₃₂-6¹⁷⁄₃₂	6½-6⅜	
Sterling Money Rates:	6¹¹⁄₁₆-6⅝	6¹¹⁄₁₆-6⅝	6¹¹⁄₁₆-6¹⁹⁄₃₂	6⅝-6⁹⁄₁₆	6⅝-6⁹⁄₁₆
Interbank:	6¹¹⁄₁₆-6⅝	6¹¹⁄₁₆-6⅝	6¹¹⁄₁₆-6¹⁹⁄₃₂	6⅝-6⁹⁄₁₆	6⅝-6⁹⁄₁₆
Overnight: open 6¾, close 6.					
Local Authority Deps:	6¾	n/a	6¹¹⁄₁₆	6⁹⁄₁₆	6⅝
Sterling CDs:	6¹¹⁄₁₆-6⅝	6¹¹⁄₁₆-6⅝	6⅝-6⁹⁄₁₆	6⁹⁄₁₆-6½	6⁹⁄₁₆-6½
Dollar CDs:	5.72	n/a	5.78	5.65	5.59
Building Society CDs:	6¹¹⁄₁₆-6⅝	6¹¹⁄₁₆-6⅝	6⅝-6¹⁹⁄₃₂	6⁹⁄₁₆-6¹⁷⁄₃₂	6⁹⁄₁₆-6¹⁷⁄₃₂

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £5.558m allotted: £1.200m: Bids: £98.38% received: 9%: Last week: £98.375% received: 95%: Avge rate: £6.4647% last wk £6.5105%: Next week: £1.200m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅞-5¾	5¹³⁄₁₆-5¹¹⁄₁₆	5¾-5⅝	5⅝-5½	5¾-4½
Deutschemark:	4-3¾	4¹⁄₁₆-3¹⁵⁄₁₆	4-3¾	4-3¾	4¼-3¾
French Franc:	6-5¾	6-5¹³⁄₁₆	6¼-5¹⁵⁄₁₆	5¹⁵⁄₁₆-5¹³⁄₁₆	7-5
Swiss Franc:	2⅛-2¹⁄₁₆	2⅛-1¹⁵⁄₁₆	2⅛-2	2-1⅞	2¼-1½
Yen:	½-¼	½-⅜	½-⅜	½-⅜	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $386.20-386.60 **Close:** $388.70-389.20 **High:** $390.20-390.70 **Low:** $384.20-384.70 **AM:** $366.65 **PM:** $389.40

Krugerrand: $390.00-392.00 (£246.00-248.00)

Platinum: $423.00 (£268.25) **Silver:** $5.45 (£3.455) **Palladium:** $136.25 (£86.40)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Nov 10	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.4859-2.4942	2.4891-2.4923	¼-⅛pr	1¼-1⅛pr
Brussels	45.63-45.83	45.67-45.77	12-9pr	33-27pr
Copenhagen	8.6070-8.6500	8.6190-8.6410	1¼-¾pr	3-1¾pr
Dublin	0.9750-0.9783	0.9750-0.9775	10-7pr	27-22pr
Frankfurt	2.2202-2.2281	2.2231-2.2262	⅝-½pr	1½-1¾pr
Lisbon	233.57-234.68	234.05-234.68	27-55ds	108-153ds
Madrid	191.71-192.36	191.93-192.22	40-50ds	136-153ds
Milan	2511.0-2519.0	2514.9-2519.0	7-8ds	24-27ds
Montreal	2.1269-2.1375	2.1288-2.1319	0.17-0.10pr	0.30-0.20pr
New York	1.5756-1.5786	1.5756-1.5766	0.13-0.11pr	0.33-0.30pr
Oslo	9.8040-9.8440	9.8230-9.8380	1½-1pr	4-3½pr
Paris	7.6670-7.7030	7.6670-7.6800	½-¼pr	1-¾pr
Stockholm	10.437-10.531	10.464-10.488	½-¾ds	½-¾ds
Tokyo	157.99-159.06	158.82-159.08	½-¾ds	2½-2¼pr
Vienna	15.621-15.677	15.633-15.660	½-¼pr	1-¾pr
Zurich	1.7873-1.7952	1.7873-1.7901	½-¼pr	2-1¾pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3522-1.3531
Austria	9.91-9.92
Belgium (Com)	28.95-28.97
Canada	1.3513-1.3518
Denmark	5.4660-5.4690
France	4.8635-4.8650
Germany	1.4100-1.4110
Hong Kong	7.7325-7.7335
Ireland	1.6133-1.6153
Italy	1595.00-1596.50
Japan	100.42-100.47
Malaysia	2.5320-2.5330
Netherlands	1.5786-1.5796
Norway	6.2339-6.2399
Portugal	148.52-148.62
Singapore	1.4110-1.4120
Spain	121.75-121.86
Sweden	6.6222-6.6313
Switzerland	1.1360-1.1370

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5770-1.5796
Australia dollar	2.1316-2.1337
Bahrain dinar	0.5885-0.6005
Brazil real*	1.5154-1.5197
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.7040-0.7140
Finland markka	6.6300-6.7460
Greece drachma	364.75-371.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.1903-12.1957
India rupee	54.10-55.06
Indonesia rupiah	3567.00-3635.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4675-0.4775
Malaysia ringgit	3.9917-3.9945
New Zealand dollar	2.4131-2.4165
Pakistan rupee	53.79 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.6800-5.9040
Singapore dollar	2.2239-2.2269
S Africa rand (com)	5.6820-5.7840
U A E dirham	5.7300-5.8540

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	209	Legal & Gn	874
ASDA Gp	8,200	Lloyds Bk	3,000
Abbey Ntl	1,800	London Elect	520
Allied Dom	7,500	Marks Spr	3,200
Argyll Gp	1,300	Mid Elec	93
Arjo Wggns	1,400	NatWst Bk	1,500
AB Foods	85	Nat Power	2,300
BAA	917	NW Water	1,500
BAT Inds	2,600	P & O	1,200
BOC	1,200	Pearson	1,300
BP	1,100	PowerGen	583
BSkyB	1,200	Prudential	2,100
BTR	8,300	REXAM	3,200
BT	3,100	RMC	555
Bk of Scot	875	RTZ	448
Barclays	5,100	Rank Org	3,600
Bass	1,200	Reckitt Col	260
Blue Circle	1,200	Redland	1,700
Boots	3,200	Reed Intl	698
BAe	3,300	Rentokil	389
BA	518	Reuters	3,200
Brit Gas	9,300	Rolls Royce	3,300
Brit Steel	3,100	Royal Ins	2,500
Burmah Cstl	28	Ryl Bk Scot	1,400
Cable Wire	2,300	Sainsbury	1,200
Cadbury	1,200	Schroders	46
Carlton Cms	931	Scot & New	878
Cm Union	684	Scot Power	2,500
Cookson	936	Sears	648
Courtaulds	588	Svrn Trent	347
De La Rue	324	Shell Trans	2,700
Enterpr Oil	171	Siebe	2,400
Forte	1,300	SmKl Bch	962
GKN	379	Smith Nph	1,600
GRE	1,900	Sthern Elec	88
GUS	936	Sid Charld	354
Gen Acc	485	Sun Allnce	1,500
Gen Elec	3,600	TI Gp	347
Glaxo Well	5,400	TSB	2,600
Granada	5,100	Tate & Lyle	763
Grand Met	4,200	Tesco	5,300
Guinness	4,100	Thames W	743
HSBC	2,200	Thrn EMI	341
Hanson	6,000	Tomkins	1,800
ICI	332	Unilever	4,500
Inchcape	438	Vodafone	2,900
Kingfisher	4,200	Whitbread	180
LASMO	1,200	Wlms Hld	995
Ladbroke	12,000	Wolseley	703
Land Secs	304	Zeneca	2,400

WALL STREET

	Nov 10 midday	Nov 9 close
AMP Inc	39¼	39½
AMR Corp	71½	72¼
AT & T	62½	63
Abbott Labs	39½	39½
Advanced Micro	21½	22½
Aetna Life	74½	75¼
Ahmanson (HF)	25½	26
Air Prod & Chem	54¼	54½
AirTouch Comm	31	31½
Alberto-Culver B	31	31½
Albertson's	32½	32½
Alcan Alumnm	31½	31¼
Alco Standard	46	92½
Allied Signal	45	44½
Alum Co of Am	52½	52½
Amax Gold Inc	6½	6¼
Amerada Hess	47½	47½
Amer Brands	40½	40½
Amer El Power	37	37½
Amer Express	42½	43½
Amer Genl Corp	33½	33½
Amer Home Pr	89½	90½
Amer Intl	86½	86½
Amer Stores	28½	28½
Ameritech	53	53½
Amoco	66½	66½
Anheuser-Busch	65	65½
Apple Computer	39½	39½
Archer Daniels	16½	16½
Armco	6	5½
Armstrng Wrld	62½	62½
Asarco	32½	32
Ashland Oil	31½	31½
Atl Richfield	108½	108½
Auto Data Pro	71½	71½
Avery Dennison	46	45½
Avon Products	71½	72½
Baker Hughes	19½	19½
Baltim Gas & El	26½	26½
Banc One	36½	36½
BankAmerica	62½	61½
Bank of NY	43½	43½
Bankers Tr NY	63½	64½
Barnett Banks	56½	56
Bausch & Lomb	37	37½
Baxter Intl	38½	38½
Becton Dicknsn	66½	66½
Bell Atlantic	62½	62½
Bell Industries	23	22½
BellSouth	37½	38½
Black & Decker	35	35½
Block (H&R)	44½	44
Boeing	70½	70
Boise Cascade	37	36½
Bristol Myrs Sq	79½	79½
Browning Ferris	28½	29
Brunswick	20½	20½
Burlington Nthn	92	82½
CBS	81	81½
CNA Financial	120½	120½
CPC Intl	65½	65½
CSX	85½	84½
Campbell Soup	51½	51½
Can Pacific	16½	16½
Cptl Cities ABC	120½	120½
Carolina Pwr	32½	32½
Caterpillar	56½	56½
Central & SW	26½	26½
Champion Intl	47½	48½
Chase Manhat	59½	60½
Chemical Bk	59½	59½
Chevron Corp	47½	47½
Chrysler	48½	47½
Chubb Corp	93½	93½
Cigna Corp	103½	104
Citicorp	69½	69½
Clorox	71½	72½
Coastal Corp	31½	31½
Coca Cola	72	71½
Colgate-Palmolive	69	68½
Columbia Gas	40½	40½
Compaq Comp	54½	54½
Comp Ass Intl	54½	57½
Conagra	38½	38½
Conrail	67½	65½
Cons Edison	29½	30½
Cons Nat Gas	40½	40½
Cooper Inds	33½	33½
Corestates	36½	36½
Corning Inc	26½	26½
Crown Cork	39½	38½
Dana Corp	27½	27½
Dayton Hudson	74½	74½
Deere	90	90
Delta Air Lines	70½	70½
Deluxe Corp	27½	27½
Detroit Edison	33½	33½
Digital Equip	59½	57½
Dillard Dept St	28½	28½
Disney (Walt)	59½	59½
Dominion Res	39½	39½
Donelley (RR)	36½	36½
Dover Corp	38½	38½
Dow Chemical	69½	68½
Dow Jones	35½	36½
Dresser	21½	21½
Duke Power	44½	44½
Dun & Bradstreet	62½	63½
Du Pont	67½	67½
Eastman Kodak	65½	64½

	Nov 10 midday	Nov 9 close
Eaton Corp	52½	51½
Emerson Elec	74½	74
Engelhard Corp	25½	25½
Enron Corp	35½	35½
Entergy	27½	27½
Ethyl Corp	12	11½
Exxon	75½	75½
FMC Corp	73½	72½
FPL Group	41½	41½
Federal Express	83½	83½
Fed Nat Mtge	108½	109½
First Chicago	69½	69½
First Interstate	133½	132½
First Union Rlty	7½	7½
Fleet Finl Grp	40½	40½
Fluor Corp	55	55
Ford Motor	28½	28
GTE Corp	40½	41
Gannett	56½	56½
Gap Inc Del	47	47½
Gen Dynamics	57	56½
Gen Electric	65½	65½
Gen Mills	55½	55½
Gen Motors	45½	45½
Gen Reinsurance	149½	149½
Gen Signal	31½	31½
Genuine Parts	39½	39½
Georgia Pac	80½	81½
Gillette	48½	48½
Glaxo Welc ADR	26½	27
Goodrich (BF)	70½	70½
Goodyear Tire	40½	39½
Grace (W&R)	58½	58½
Grt Atl Pac Tea	21½	21½
Great Wstn Fin	24	24½
Halliburton	42½	42½
Harcourt General	39½	39½
Heinz (HJ)	30½	46½
Hercules	54½	55½
Hershey Foods	59½	59½
Hewlett Packard	93½	93½
Hilton Hotels	67½	67½
Home Depot	41½	41½
Homestake Mng	16½	16½
Honeywell	43½	42½
Household Intl	60½	61
Houston Inds	46½	46½
Humana	22½	23
ITT Corp	121½	121
Illinois Tool	59½	57½
Illinova	28½	28½
INCO	34½	34½
Ingersoll Rand	35½	35½
Inland Steel	23½	23½
Intel Corp	68½	69
IBM	97½	98½
Intl Flav & Fr	48½	49
Intl Paper	35½	34½
James River Va	31½	31½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	80½	81½
Kellogg	73½	73½
Kerr-McGee	53½	53½
Kimberly-Clark	72½	73½
Kmart	7½	7½
Knight-Ridder	61	60½
Lilly (Eli)	97½	98
Limited Inc	18½	19
Lincoln Nat	46	46
Litton	41½	41½
Liz Claiborne	28½	28½
Lockheed Martin	70	69½
Louisiana Pac	24	24½
MCI Comm	25½	26
Marriott Int	36½	37½
Marsh & McLnn	83½	83½
Masco Corp	28½	28½
May Dept St	43½	44
Maytag Corp	19½	19½
McDonalds	42	41½
McDonnell D	85½	85½
McGraw Hill	83	83½
Mead Corp	57½	57½
Medtronic	57½	57
Mellon Bk	51½	52½
Melville Corp	29½	30½
Merck Inc	58½	58½
Merrill Lynch	59½	60½
Microsoft	97½	99
Minnesota Mine	59½	60
Mobil Corp	103½	103½
Monsanto	107½	107½
Morgan (JP)	77½	77½
Motorola Inc	67	67½
Natl Semi	23½	23½
Natl Service Ind	30½	30½
Navistar Intl	10½	10½
NBD Bancorp	38½	38½
NY Times A	26½	26½
Newmont Mng	41½	41½
Niag Mohawk	[illegible]	10
Nike B	[illegible]	[illegible]
NL Industries	12½	12½
Noram Energy	7½	7½
Nordstrom	39½	39½
Norfolk Sthrn	76½	75½
Nthn State Pwr	46½	46½
Norwest Corp	31½	32½
Nynex Corp	48½	48½
Occidental Pet	22	22½
Ohio Edison	22½	22½

	Nov 10 midday	Nov 9 close
Oracle	47½	47½
Oryx Energy Co	12	11½
Owens Corning	42½	42
PPG Industries	43½	43½
PNC Bank	27½	27½
PP&L Res	23½	23½
Paccar Inc	41½	41½
Pacificorp	18½	18½
Pac Enterprises	25½	25½
Pac Gas & Elect	29½	29½
Pac Telesis	30	30½
Pall Corp	23½	23½
Panhandle East	25½	25½
Peco Energy	29½	29½
Penney (JC)	46½	46½
Pennzoil	37½	38
Pepsico	53½	53
Pfizer	59	59
Phelps Dodge	65½	64½
Philip Morris	87½	88½
Phillips Pet	31½	32½
Pitney Bowes	44½	44½
Polaroid	42	41½
PriceCostco	17½	16½
Procter & Gmbl	83½	83½
Providian	40	40
Pub Serv E & G	29½	29½
Quaker Oats	33½	33½
Ralston Purina	58½	58½
Raychem Corp	48	47½
Raytheon	44½	43½
Reebok Intl	32½	33½
Reynolds Metals	52	52½
Roadway Srvcs	52½	52
Rockwell Intl	46½	46½
Rohm & Haas	56½	56½
Royal Dutch	123½	123½
Rubbermaid	27½	27½
SBC Comms	54½	55½
Safeco Corp	68½	68
St Paul's Cos	53½	53½
Salomon Inc	36½	37½
Sara Lee Corp	30½	30½
Scecorp	16½	16½
Schering Plough	54½	55½
Schlumberger	61	61½
Scott Paper	53½	53½
Seagram	37	37
Sears Roebuck	38½	38½
Shell Trans	70½	71½
Sherwin Wlms	38½	38½
Skyline Corp	18	18
Snap-On-Tools	43½	43½
Southern Co	22½	23
Sprint Corp	37½	37½
Stanley Works	47½	47½
Sun Company	28½	28½
Sun Microsys	89½	85½
Suntrust	65½	66½
Supervalu	31½	31½
Sysco Corp	30½	30½
TRW Inc	70½	71½
TCC Inds	2½	2½
Tandem Comp	11½	11½
Tandy Corp	45½	45½
Teledyne	24½	24½
Temple Inland	45½	45½
Tenneco	45½	45
Texaco	67½	68½
Texas Inst	64½	63½
Texas Utilities	37½	37½
Textron	69½	69½
Time Warner	38	38
Times-Mirror A	28½	28½
Timken	39	39½
Torchmark	41½	41½
Toys R Us	23½	24
Transamerica	71½	70½
Travelers	56½	57½
Tribune	64½	64½
Tyco Labs	63½	63½
UST Inc	30½	30½
UAL	184½	186½
US Inds	16½	16½
USX Marathon	18½	18
Unicom	32½	33
Unilever NV	129½	127½
Union Camp	48½	48½
Union Carbide	36½	37½
Union Pacific	65½	64½
Unisys Corp	6½	6½
USAIR Group	15½	15½
USF&G Corp	16½	16½
US Life	27½	27½
United Tech	90½	91
Unocal Corp	26	25½
VF Corp	48	48½
WMX Tech	28½	28½
Wal-Mart Stores	23½	24
Warner-Lambert	89½	90½
Wells Fargo	216½	215½
Westinghouse El	14½	14½
Weyerhaeuser	44	44½
Whirlpool	52½	53
Whitman	21½	21½
Winn Dixie	65½	65½
Woolworth	13½	13½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	47½	47½
Xerox	130½	130½
Yellow Corp	12½	12½

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HIT OR MYTH 33

Endowments under the spotlight

WEEKEND MONEY

LONG-LOST 36

Pension plans that could disappoint

Putting a price on a long life

Marianne Curphey looks at the Government's struggle to define its role in long-term care

The Government is being urged to clarify the role of the State in paying for long-term nursing care amid fears that elderly people could be presented with huge bills in their twilight years.

Age Concern and the Law Society have identified a growing number of retired people trying to transfer their home and assets to their children to avoid their life savings being swallowed up in residential fees.

With an ageing population. Age Concern fears local authorities will come under increasing pressure to recover money from people who have made themselves deliberately homeless. penniless and dependent on state care.

Some pensioners have already begun transfering savings in order to qualify for housing benefit.

As Kenneth Clarke. the Chancellor. prepares his Budget, he is looking at plans under which the Government would pay nursing fees. but not accommodation costs. to elderly people living in private residential homes.

He could also double the £8,000 savings threshold that cuts off state help with nursing fees, a move that Age Concern would welcome.

But although these measures would help to assuage mounting middle-class dismay over pensioners who have to sell their homes to pay for care. Mr Clarke still has to tackle the question of where the law stands on the issue.

Many elderly people are angry because they feel they are being "cheated" out of free residential care after a lifetime of paying taxes. They feel justified in expecting the State to pick up the bill towards the end of their life.

Age Concern says that the number of calls it receives on the subject has risen from 800 to 4,000 in just six months. and believes this is "just the tip of the iceberg".

Sally Greengross. director-general of Age Concern. said: "Many older people feel that the current means-test system leaves them 'asset stripped'. Most older people cannot meet the full cost of their care, and most of the 28 per cent of those in care who do fully fund themselves do so through the sale of property."

However, the Law Society gave a warning this week that there was "no foolproof way of avoiding the value of the home being taken into account in means-testing" when state support was being assessed.

Currently. it says. there are no precedents for courts chasing frail old ladies for cash. However. "it is unclear how far authorities will go in order to pursue contributions they believe to be owing to them", it adds. The Society fears elderly people are being encouraged to sign away their possessions without being properly alerted to the consequences.

As the number of long-term NHS beds have fallen. the private sector has filled the gap.

Independent homes can cost up to £350 a week for accommodation and up to £500 for nursing care.

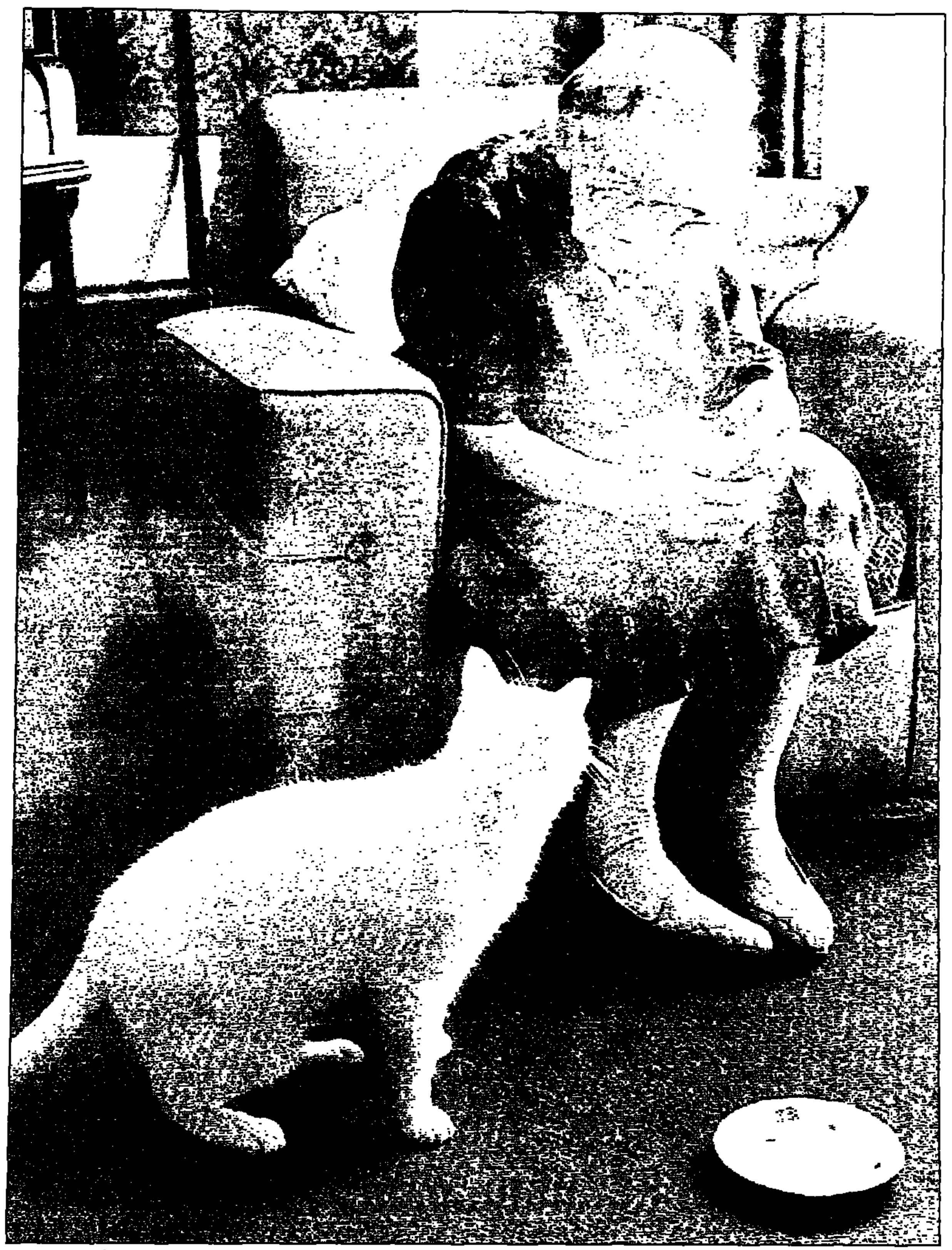
Age Concern has been discussing the option of introducing personal insurance plans for old age with the insurance industry.

Younger people are starting to accept they may not have the security of state support in their old age, but it is too late for retired people to start such plans.

In addition. social change has removed some of the family help on which elderly people have depended.

"No one knows what effect divorce or cohabitation will have on the informal network of carers. particularly women. who sacrificed their careers to look after elderly relatives." Ms Greengross said.

"In France, Germany and Singapore families have a fiscal and legal obligation to their relatives."



Many elderly people feel "cheated" out of free residential care after a lifetime of working and paying taxes

A helping hand — if you qualify

By law. the local authority must carry out an assessment of your ability to pay if you are seeking help from it to pay for residential care. It will take into account your income and savings.

Age Concern advises that you will be expected to pay the full cost of care if you have more than £8,000 in capital (property. savings and investments). though this ceiling may be raised in the Budget. possibly to £16,000.

For a permanent admission to the home (not a temporary stay). your home will be counted as part of your capital unless it is lived in by:

☐ your partner or spouse

☐ a relative aged 60 or over. or by a relative aged under 60 and incapacitated

☐ a child under 16 whom you are liable to maintain.

In these circumstances. the local authority must ignore the value of the property. It has the discretion to ignore the value of the property if someone else lives there. for example a relative aged under 60, someone who has looked after you or a friend who is aged over 60.

If no one lives in the property. the local authority must take its value into account. If it arranges a place for you in a home. and you have little other income or savings. the local authority can create a legal charge on the value of your property. This means that from the day you enter the home. the local authority can make a claim on the value of your home. and recover the money owned to it for fees when the property is sold.

The local authority cannot insist that you sell your house in order to pay for the care. but it can take steps to recover contributions and. in assessing ability to pay. may take into account property that has been given away for the purpose of avoiding means-testing.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Weekend Money
is edited by
Anne Ashworth

BUDGET WATCH

TAX CONCESSIONS for those prepared to make provision in middle life for their care in old age are now widely expected in the Budget.

Geoffrey Watson, pensions partner at Binder Hamlyn, the accountant, suggests the Chancellor might allow tax relief on premiums for long term care. The Chancellor could allow tax relief on premiums paid by relations, as well as by the insured individual.

The tax team at KPMG. the accountant, predicts more far-reaching measures, one allowing employees to save for care fees through their pension schemes.

Richard Malone. president of the Pensions Management Institute, would welcome such a step. seeing it as a "welcome breaking down of the boundaries between care insurance and pensions."

Perils of the giveaway

Transferring property or assets to your children is fraught with difficulty, the Law Society says.

First, you must clarify whether it is an outright gift or a loan. whether you expect to receive anything in return and, if so. on what terms.

If you expect to live rent-free in a house you have given to your children, who pays for the insurance and upkeep: what happens if the recipient dies before you. or becomes involved in divorce or bankruptcy proceedings? In either case, the money or property could end up belonging to somebody else.

Equally. the donor and recipient could fall out. or the donor be moved prematurely into care so the recipient can live in the house themselves.

Elderly people often want to avoid the worry and responsibility of home ownership. but the Law Society says this can be done by making an Enduring Power of Attorney. rather than making a full transfer.

Age Concern says the really thorny issue is "deliberate deprivation" — when someone knowingly gives away assets, or sells them at less than their market value, to qualify for benefit.

These assets can be income — say, an annuity — or capital. such as savings in building society accounts and stocks and shares.

The local authority could decide that you have deliberately deprived yourself of money which could have been used to pay for care. in which case it may calculate your contribution as though you still had those assets.

In law. a local authority is allowed to recover money from the people to whom you gave your assets if you enter a nursing home within six months of transferring them and it believes you were trying to avoid paying your contribution towards fees.

Sally Greengross of Age Concern fears that as the number of elderly people increases and local authorities become strapped for cash. council officials may be more prepared to go to court over transfers more than six months in advance.She advises getting legal advice before any transfer.

The Law Society says it is "unclear" how far authorities will go. Few have threatened to use insolvency proceedings to recover debt. but this may be because of a lack of expertise or fear of bad publicity.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Profits of conflict

PERSONAL INVESTOR

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

At two extremities of the kingdom, private investors in privatised utilities will watch keenly next week for talks that could quintuple the money they subscribed five or six years ago. Northumbrian Water and Swalec are the latest candidates in a landslide of utility takeover bids. It is already set to sweep away half the regional electricity companies and may now seep into the water sector. It would seem daft to sniff at the handy cheques arriving for mostly tiny holdings. Yet many small investors do. They are the ones who believed in a political dream that died.

The dream was that sales of utilities to customers and employees would identify their interests with the success of special companies we all use and build a private sector consensus. Lots of investors took a quick profit but more millions of us stayed. Those that backed electricity rather than gas have done well. But like employee shareholders, many of whom lost their jobs, they soon came to be treated as an eccentric nuisance rather than pioneers of a new age.

Instead, privatised utilities tried to make themselves as much like conventional companies as possible, beholden to the dictates of the City fund managers who rapidly came to own most of their shares. Consumer interests were increasingly left to regulators. This simplified the way managers need to think. But lapsing the ideal has converted a recipe for consensus into a recipe for conflict. Investing in safe, steady world of utilities has become a political minefield, in which spectacular returns alternate with sequestration of businesses, bars on new activities and threats of levies to remove "excess" profits or cash.

The essence of regulation was to set only minimum standards to guard against monopoly or encourage competition. But regulators who do that are now seen as weak. Others, as at Ofgas, have become antagonistic ideological purists. By the time British Gas needed public support, however, it did not even try to mobilise nearly two million neglected and fed-up small investors.

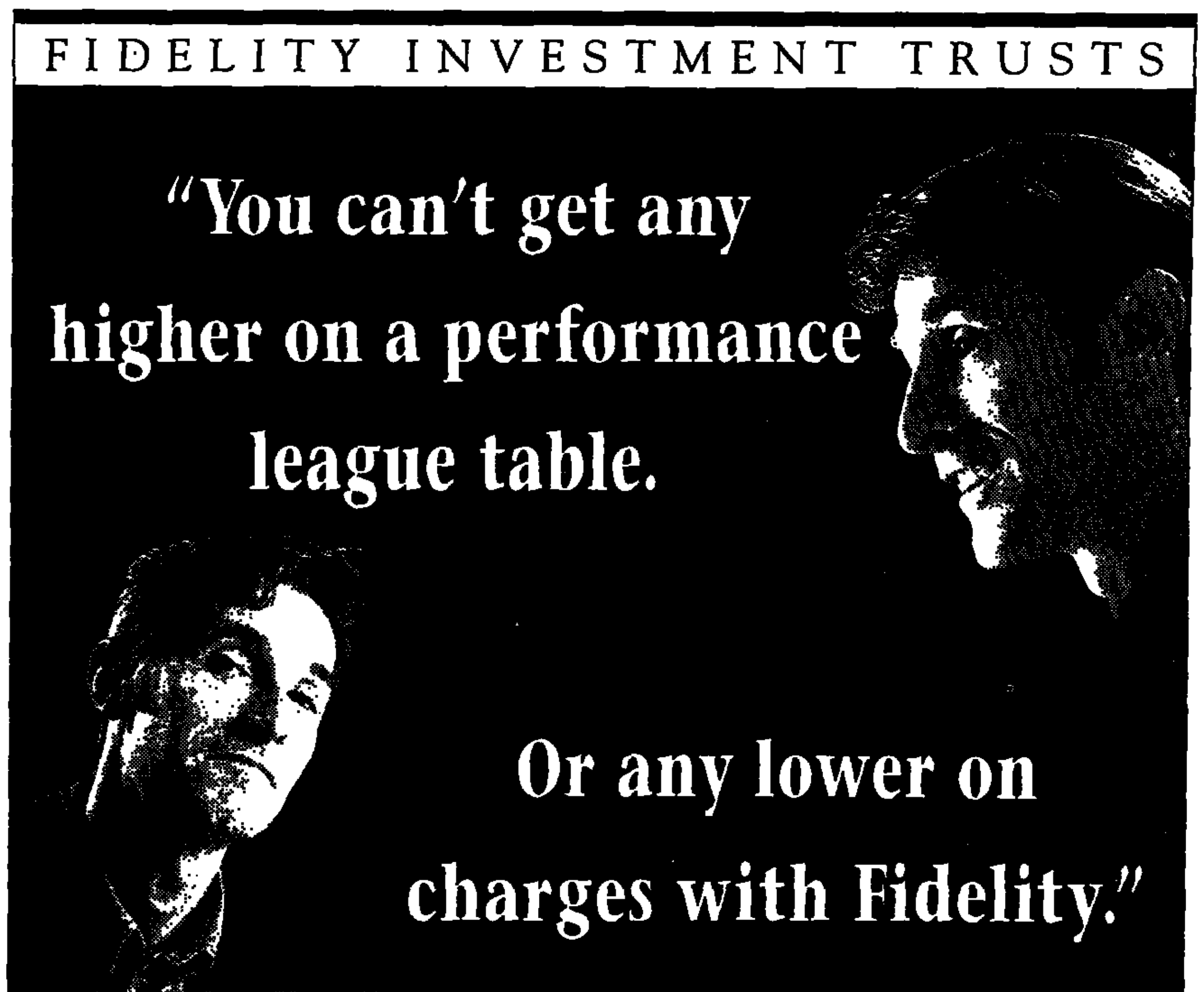
This year, the conflict between customers and shareholders polarised as never before when bans on hostile water and electricity bids were lifted. This was supposed to allow market forces to unseat bad managers. But boards had no trouble doing that before and no bidder has claimed this as a motive.

Rather, the threat of takeover has raised the power of fund managers and obliged boards to treat the minimum demands of regulators as a maximum obligation. The water regulator has managed to establish the principle, pioneered in a rough and ready way at North West Water, that extra profits from outperforming his targets should be shared, systematically if unequally, between customers and shareholders.

Lyonnaise des Eaux's pursuit of Northumbrian Water shows the idiocies that arise when the social contract implied by customers owning a lot of the shares breaks down. The Water Act enabled Ofwat, the regulator, to negotiate minimum benefits for consumers before Lyonnaise was allowed to try to merge its North East Water subsidiary with Northumbrian. Two days later, Northumbrian revealed that it could offer much better savings to its customers by sharing out the benefits of outperforming Ofwat targets. But it would be mad to offer them.

Northumbrian cannot afford to offer customers more than Lyonnaise. The rest must go to shareholder benefits. In a bid situation, the minimum for customers becomes the maximum. So the deal struck by Ofwat will actually make Northumbrian's customers worse off. If a bid is agreed behind closed doors, customer and investors might never even know.

This will infuriate many of the 20,000 odd Northumbrian customers who are still shareholders and want to keep an independent regional company. But they are relics in this cold new age where conflict has been institutionalised and consensus dumped. At least they can cry all the way to the bank and leave newcomers to face the political flak.



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Kleinwort Euro Privatisation	0.50%	1.77%	N/A

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Regular saving can bring higher rewards, **Helen Pridham** finds

Take a step up: join the regulars and march towards better returns on your bank and building society savings accounts by putting aside a fixed amount each month

Societies woo back army of small savers

In recent years, many building societies have abandoned small savers. Even before larger societies started increasing their minimum deposits to ward off investors speculating on a takeover or conversion to bank status, there had been a trend towards requiring deposits of £100 or more. What is more, when their money is accepted, small savers are often paid derisorily low interest rates. Their situation was not helped when the Government abolished the building society save-as-you-earn scheme in last year's Budget.

Some societies have now had second thoughts and are trying to attract back smaller investors who save regularly, by paying them top interest rates. Last month, the Nationwide launched its Bonus Saver account, which pays up to 6 per cent per annum, an interest rate which it otherwise only gives to savers with deposits of £25,000 or more. "We saw there was a gap in our range. Smaller savers had been squeezed out," the Nationwide admitted.

Earlier this year, Bradford & Bingley introduced its Monthly Saver account, which is currently paying 7.3 per cent on savings of £10 to £100 per month. This is more than it pays on any other account. There are also a handful of smaller societies that are similarly generous to regular savers.

Such regular savings accounts are particularly useful for young people saving up for a deposit on their first home, or for those other savers who want to build up a lump sum where it is risk-free and instantly accessible.

To qualify for the top rates in a savings account, though, investors usually have to be disciplined about how much they save and try to leave their money untouched. With Bradford & Bingley, for example, you must save the same amount each month by standing order for a year at a time. You can alter the amount or close your account on each anniversary without penalty, but if you withdraw money during the year, the interest rate drops to 3.3 per cent. Nationwide allows its savers to vary the amounts they save between £20 and £1,000 a month, and to miss one payment a year. But if you make any withdrawals, you lose your bonus and the interest rate falls to 3 per cent. If no further withdrawals are made for the following 12 months, however, the bonus is reinstated.

Additional rewards for those who qualify for the full 6 per cent in the first year are extra loyalty benefits, such as an extra £100 cashback if a mortgage is taken out with the society, or a 1 per cent APR discount on a Nationwide personal loan. The Norwich & Peterborough gives a free property valuation to its regular savers.

Other smaller societies offering savings accounts — which they are normally happy to operate on a postal basis — may allow a limited number of withdrawals per year without any loss of interest. Alternatively, as with the Scarborough, withdrawals may not be permitted, but an account can be closed at any time without penalty if the money is required and a new account opened immediately. The City & Metropolitan is the only society that places no limit on withdrawals.

Another avenue for small savers are tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas). Many banks and societies pay interest of 6 per cent or more on savings starting at £1 in Tessas. The interest on these accounts is tax-free if the money is left invested for five years, but you can get at your cash early and pay the tax and still be better off than in an ordinary instant access account. Look out for interest rate penalties, or withdrawal fees.

THE TOP BUILDING SOCIETY PAYERS

Society	Account	Rate %	Savings Min/Max pm	Notes
Bradford & Bingley	Monthly Saver	7.3	10/100	No withdrawals permitted
Dudley*	Bonus Builder II	7.07	10/100	No withdrawals permitted
Darlington	Pyramid II	7.0	1/100	No withdrawals permitted
Scarborough	Keepsafe Bond	7.0	15/150	No withdrawals permitted
Mansfield	Regular Saver	6.0	5/150	2 withdrawals permitted p.a.
Nationwide	Bonus Saver	6.0	20/1000	6 withdrawals permitted p.a. but rate reduces to 3%
City & Metro.	Regular Savings	5.5	10/500	No limit on withdrawals
Holmesdale	Regular Savings	5.45	1/None	1 withdrawal permitted p.a.
Coventry	Bonus	5.0	1/150	2 withdrawals permitted p.a.
Loughborough	Subs Shares	5.0	1/500	1 withdrawal permitted p.a.

*Local society only. *Source:* Moneyfacts

A QUESTION OF MONEY

When the name in the frame is the nominee

Q What is a nominee company?

A A nominee company holds shares and other securities on behalf of investors. It allows stockbrokers to buy and sell shares for private individuals in a quick and efficient manner. An increasing number of people hold their shares in nominee accounts to make it easier to meet new Stock Exchange rules, which are shortening the time between when shares are traded and when the trade has to be settled. The nominee company is the legal owner of the shares, but the underlying investors have a beneficial interest in the shares — they are entitled to all the income and capital gains.

It is not mandatory for shareholders to use a nominee to hold their shares, although some individual brokers may insist that a nominee account is used.

Q What is the time set for settlement?

A This limit is set at "T plus 5", the trade day plus five more days. This is expected to drop to "T plus 3" next year, when Crest, the new Stock Exchange settlement system, starts. The exchange hopes to move to "T plus 0"; trading and paying on the same day.

Q Who offers nominee accounts?

A Many of the brokers and banks that offer share dealing services also have nominee companies that run nominee accounts.

Q Do stockbrokers charge extra for using nominee accounts?

A Most brokers do charge for nominee services. The charges vary between firms, for example, Killik & Co charges £1.50 for each dividend collected. Others may charge a flat fee or fee based on the number of shares held.

Q Do you get the same information from the company, if you hold the shares in a nominee?

A Circulars and information from the company you hold your shares in will be sent to the nominee company. The nominee will also receive any shareholder perks, such as discounts on the products or services offered by the company.

Some nominees may choose to distribute these perks to the underlying investors. Anyone who opts to use a nominee service, should ask about the arrangements for the distribution of perks.

Individuals who use nominees do not lose the right to accept or reject offers for the shares from other companies, nor do they lose the right to vote.

Q Can I be certain my assets are safe?

A All the assets in a nominee account should be quite clearly separated from the company that offers the service. If the firm that holds your assets folds, your assets should be protected.

Even if there are insufficient funds in the nominee account, and the company fails, then you should be protected by the Investors Compensation Scheme (ICS) or other compensation arrangements.

However, at the moment, because nominee services do not fall under the Financial Services Act 1986, compensation is not compulsory.

You should ask your stockbroker for clear guidance on how investments are protected while with the nominee.

The Securities and Investments Board, the chief City watchdog, is trying to bring in rules that will mean all investors with assets in nominee accounts will be protected automatically.

Q What happens if you have a complaint against a nominee operator?

A Although nominee services do not fall under the FSA, the banks and stockbrokers that offer the services are regulated. Complaints will be handled by the nominee operator's regulatory body.

CAROLINE MERRELL

Client finds that life means ten years

WINNERS & LOSERS

Leonard Waughman is not a happy man. Ten years ago, he took out what he believed to be a ten-year savings plan with Ambassador Life, now part of Abbey Life, on behalf of his wife, Sylvia. He was attracted by advertisements showing that small monthly investments could grow substantially over a long period of time.

The advertisements indicated that £20 a month invested for five years — a total investment of £1,200 — could produce a profit of £659. These illustrations were based on the past performance of the savings plan.

This figure was compared with the profits that would have been made by investing in building society or bank accounts. Saving through these methods would have produced profits of £178 and £255, respectively.

The advertisements also gave forward projections in much smaller print, using growth rates of 7.5 per cent and 10 per cent. These showed that £20 a month invested over ten years would grow into £3,010 or £3,398, respectively.

This year, when his wife came to cash her plan in, Mr Waughman discovered that she had in fact taken out a whole-of-life savings plan, in which the money has to be invested for 26 years before the plan can be encashed without any surrender penalties being applied. He found out that surrendering the policy would leave him with a return of £469 on £15 a month invested for ten years — a total investment of £1,800. The penalty would account for 20 per cent of the overall return made on his savings.

Mr Waughman said: "I was attracted by advertisements showing illustrations of past performance indicating substantial profits. But it now seems that the investment fund rules would have gobbled up practically all of the first year's investment."

"On investigation, I find that there are multiple 'nibbles' at the investment, which inevitably sent it into terminal decline." Mr Waughman says that charges include a 5 per cent penalty because the investment is small; a 5 per cent bid/offer spread; a 6 per cent management charge on the first year's investment; and a surrender penalty of 63 per cent of the remaining value of the first year's fund, if the policy is surrendered after ten years.

Mr Waughman is now trying to press the company for compensation over what he believes to be misleading advertising. In a letter to the company, Mr Waughman said: "During the period, the UK stock market indices have approximately doubled, with most of the gain being made recently, ie, when a high number of units have been accumulated.

"To have achieved a return of only 5 per cent per annum compound from a doubling of share values plus dividends suggests a low level of competence on the part of the investment manager." The Ambassador savings plan is now no longer offered by the company, which means that figures comparing its performance to other similar products on the market are difficult to obtain. However, according to a recent survey by the specialist magazine *Money Marketing*, Abbey Life's whole-of-life unit-linked savings plan would show the second-lowest return out of 18 plans if cashed in after five years.

A spokeswoman for Abbey Life said that all charges and the surrender penalties would have been made clear in the original documentation. She also pointed out that the product had performed in line with the projections, and claimed that investing in a building society account over the same period would have produced much smaller returns. Putting £15 a month in to an average investment trust over 10 years would have produced a lump sum of £3,546 while the equivalant in a unit trust would now be worth £2,980, £711 more than final sum received by Mrs Waughman.

According to Micropal, the statistics specialist, £15 a month put in a building society account would have shown a 2.58 per cent return over the same period.

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No interest is earned on a cancelled purchase or on Bonds cashed in before the first anniversary of the purchase. Details of the interest and bonus payable are contained in the prospectus.

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NATIONAL SAVINGS CHILDREN'S BONUS BONDS Issue G Application to purchase
1 I apply to buy________units at £25 each (Subject to the terms of the prospectus) Total Value £ ______ 00p
Your cheque should be crossed "A/C Payee" and made payable to 'NATIONAL SAVINGS (CHILDREN'S BONUS BONDS)' using CAPITAL letters for this part of the cheque. Please write your name and address on the back of the cheque.
2 Does the child already hold a National Savings Children's Bonus Bond? (Please Tick) Yes ☐ No ☐
If yes ☑ please enter the Holder's Number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
3 Name, address and birthplace of child
*Please give birth Registration District (if known) or the town and county. For large towns also give the district
M______Surname______
All forenames______
Address______
______Postcode______Date of Birth
*Place of birth______ ☐☐☐
4 Name and address of the person with parental responsibility to control the bondholding until the child is 16.
‡ Guardian, receiver or other person who has parental responsibility for the bond holder under a court order
M______Surname______Parent ☐
All forenames______Other ‡ ☐
Address______(please tick)
______Postcode______
5 Name and address of purchaser
M______Surname______
All forenames______
Address______
______Postcode______
6 I declare that the child named above is under 16 and that this purchase will not take his/her holding of Bonds above the maximum limit. To the best of my knowledge and belief the information given is correct.
Signature______
Date____/____/____ Daytime telephone number______ (useful if there is a query)
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Full marks for persistency, at least

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

Persistency is a quality that life insurance companies encourage in their salespeople. But use the word in its industry jargon sense, meaning the numbers of policies cancelled in their early years, and insurers will grow distinctly uneasy.

For insurers, persistency is fine if it helps to close a deal. But persistency figures are another matter, especially since they reveal how many of those deals go sour.

Consumers, however, tend to take the opposite view, disliking the assiduous sales pitch, but approving of any statistics that help them to choose a better-than-average pension or endowment policy. Here persistency figures come in more than handy. Experience has proved that a company that holds on to its customers tends to direct its efforts more towards offering good value than increasing sales. As Mike Wadsworth, of Watson Wyatt, the actuary, puts it: "High quality companies have a high policy-retention rate."

To date, insurers have kept persistency rates hidden from the public. Data in an annual survey from AKG the actuary, is given in coded form, so dangerous is thought to be its potential impact. A limited amount of explicit information will be made public in the next few weeks, though insurers will continue to preserve their confidentiality, as names will not be included.

But this week it has been proposed that insurers should be forced to publish individual data, a proposal that the poor performers with high lapse rates are certain to oppose.

Anyone with a personal pension or endowment policy should support greater disclosure. Even if they are convinced they are investing with a company that will provide a handsome payout, they should call for the ending of a system that cost policyholders about £800 million a year in the early Nineties. This was the amount pocketed by insurers in charges taken from the premiums of those driven to abandon their policies. No wonder secrecy about this subject has persisted.

Care conundrum

RUNNING a multinational may be simpler than understanding the rules surrounding property and long-term care for the elderly.

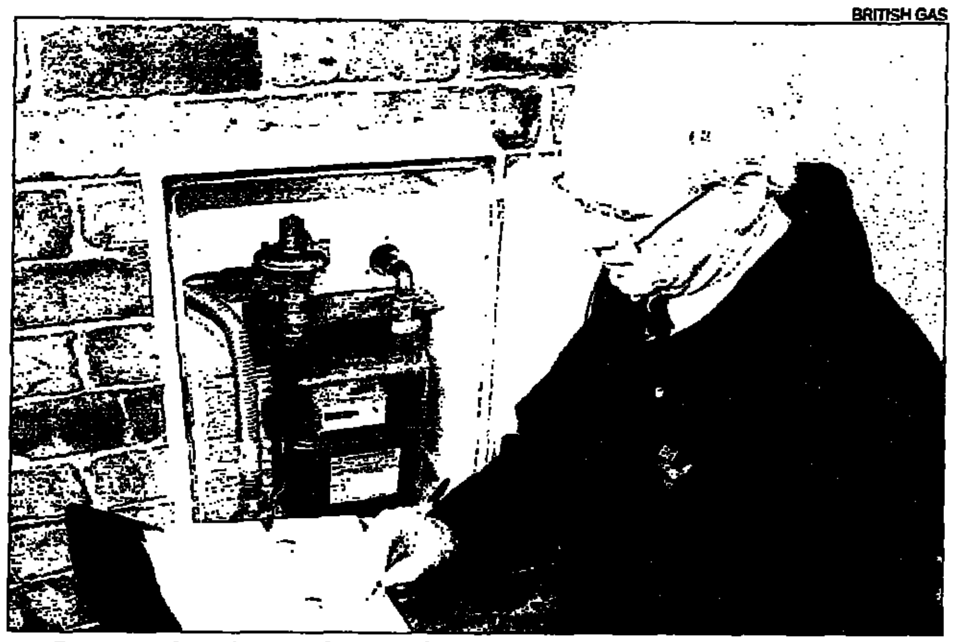
Age Concern reports that it has been contacted by industrialists, asking how elderly parents can hand over their homes to their children, so as to qualify for state help with nursing home fees. Age Concern suggests that the Government should examine whether such people should expect the taxpayer to foot the bill for their relations.

But the charity also believes the Chancellor should apply his mind to the whole issue of care, and how to pay for it in the Budget. For example, where does the responsibility of the individual to pay for care end and when should the State step in? Should a house be seen primarily as an investment and, thus a source of funds for care? Or should this asset be safeguarded, so that the next generation is not denied its inheritance?

The Chancellor is known to be considering tax breaks for long-term care insurance. But he would be ill-advised to introduce such a measure in isolation.

The gasman cometh — in his own good time

BRITISH GAS



Customers have been told that no firm day can be given for the gasman to call

The withdrawal of British Gas from the Charter Mark, the Government-sponsored consumer service standard, comes after complaints from customers reached record levels and as Norman Blacker, director of service, retail and supply, announced his departure.

As temperatures dropped this week, some of those who had signed up to ServiceCare, the British Gas service contract, had cause to wonder whether the extra 10 per cent they had been charged was worth it.

Under the terms of ServiceCare, their central heating should be fixed on the same day that it goes on the blink. All well in theory but practice has been quite another matter. British Gas has refused firm appointments to any number of customers in the South East. Unseasonal weather or an administrative mix-up have been blamed, depending on which source at the company you believe.

Callers to service centres requiring urgent repairs have been told that, contrary to those terms, no firm day can be given for the gasman to call. Instead, British Gas relies on words in the contract, which talk of the company using its "endeavours" to fix the appliance.

The document contains a reassuring guarantee of priority attention for those who have paid for the service, which costs as much as £104 a year in the South East. "In the event of an appliance breakdown, that means we'll normally call on the same day if you have reported the fault before 7.30pm," it reads. The insertion of the word "normally" absolves the company of any firm liability to carry out the work promised, a legal nicety that will have escaped most customers.

John Bridgeman, the new Director-General of Fair Trading, has recently expressed concern at such contractual wording, which appears to bring benefits, but cannot be relied on in an emergency.

British Gas was unrepentant, blaming the onset of winter for a lack of engineers to carry out the work. Richard Diamond, who handles customer complaints at the service business, said: "There are problems because of this cold snap in the South East which we've been suffering from for the past couple of days." In one district alone, the company was handling 130 service calls as a result. "It does happen every year, whenever there's a cold snap," said Mr Diamond. "We can't magic engineers out of the air."

As a result, callers to one district office on Wednesday were being told that not only could they not rely on a visit that day, there was no guarantee of one the next, although it was "likely" that the work would be done. In fact, no firm day could be given because of the backlog.

No priority was given to customers with special needs, such as the old and sick. The British Gas supervisor said even pregnant women and those with young babies were being required to wait more than a day before the heat went back on. Mr Diamond said this was a mistake, and policy was to give priority to needy cases. "Obviously we're doing our best." But it is clear that policy is not being followed by employees.

British Gas later changed its mind, saying the refusal to quote a firm appointment date was an administrative error, a claim again not borne out by staff on the ground.

So what use are these expensive service contracts if they cannot be relied upon to make an engineer appear at a given time? Well, apparently if you do not have one, British Gas may not turn up for weeks — if at all. In that respect, they do provide some sort of priority. But it is not one that will get the boiler going again when it is five degrees below outside.

Mr Diamond's direct line is 01784 874014. But it appears that the extraordinary and unpredictable arrival of winter at the end of the year may have left him short of answers.

MARTIN WALLER

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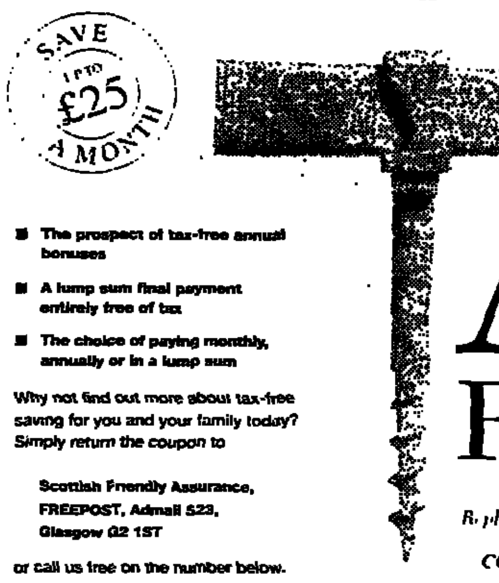

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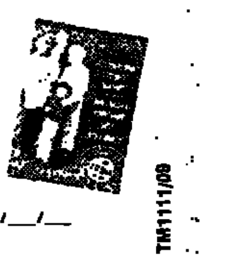

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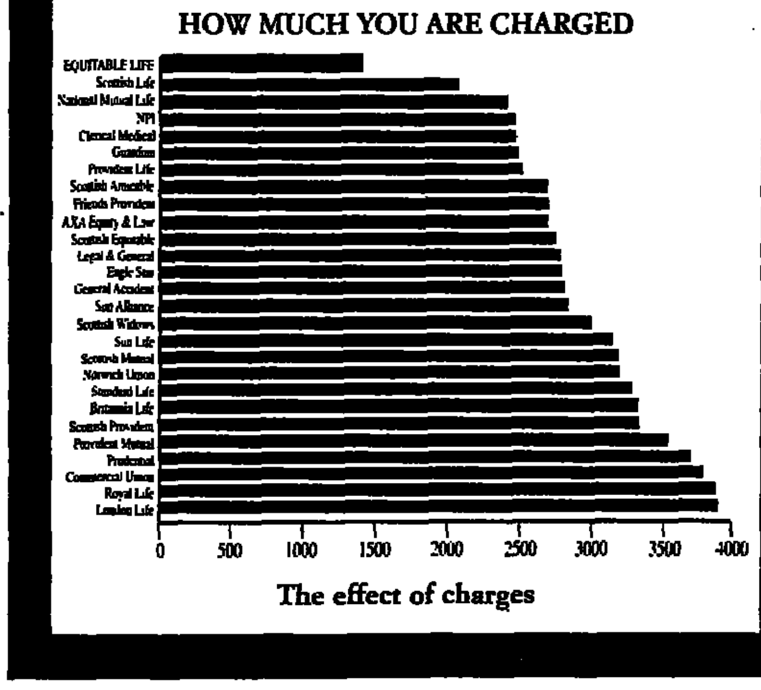
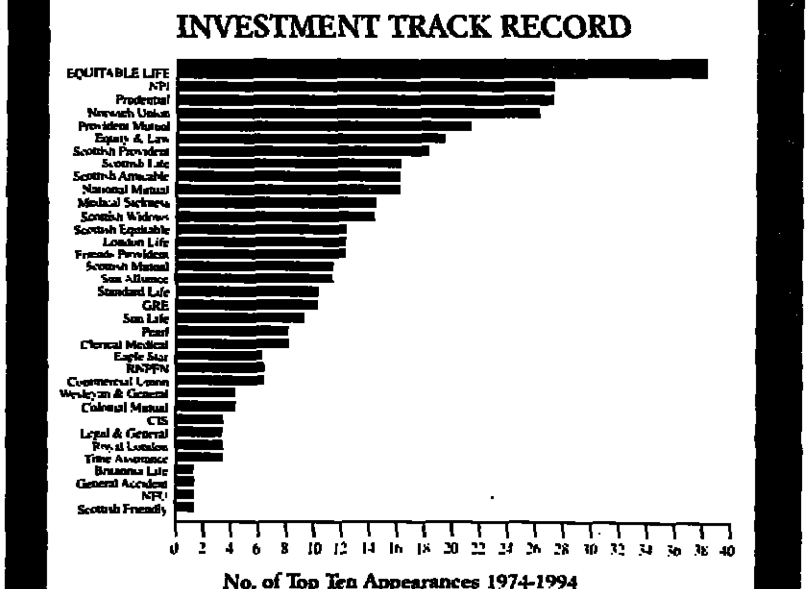


The effect of charges

INVESTMENT TRACK RECORD



No. of Top Ten Appearances 1974-1994

Source: Planned Savings surveys of regular contribution with-profits personal pension plans, 1974-1994

Choosing a personal pension plan is not an easy task. Superficially, many plans can look similar, so what factors should you consider when making your choice?

Price, performance and flexibility are perhaps the key indicators that will enable you to differentiate the wheat from the chaff.

PRICE

New rules came into force this year which require companies to disclose to potential buyers the cost of investments such as personal pension plans. Comparing the charges made by different companies can be quite revealing.

The chart above left compares the effect of the charges made by various companies to recoup such costs as commission, remuneration and administration for a £100 pm, 10 year regular contribution with-profits personal pension plan. Source: Money Marketing, 19 January 1995.

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Sara McConnell finds mortgage lenders coming under greater scrutiny

Persuading the bank to listen

PETER TREVNOR

Peter and Sally Linton with daughters Emma and Eleanor

Midland Bank has backed down over its initial refusal to allow an existing customer to remortgage with a discount on the same terms as a new customer or an existing customer moving house.

After the intervention of *The Times*, Peter and Sally Linton are being offered Midland's 3.29 per cent variable discount rate for 12 months, after they found their circumstances prevented them from going to a rival lender. The discount will save the Lintons more than £2,200.

Growing numbers of borrowers are making the most of lenders' desperation to compete for customers in a stagnant housing market by remortgaging to get a better deal, either with a fixed rate or with a variable rate discount for the early years of the mortgages.

Remortgage business accounted for nearly a quarter of mortgage transactions in the first quarter of 1995, according to the Council of Mortgage Lenders. A recent survey from NOP showed remortgaging had doubled over the past year. But many borrowers wanting to remortgage without moving house find they are excluded from the best rates, which are reserved for new customers or existing borrowers moving house.

Remortgages accounted for nearly a quarter of mortgages

Often the only solution is to change lenders and become a new customer to get access to the best rates. Lenders have been widely criticised for favouring new customers at the expense of existing ones, in their keenness to attract new business. But Mr and Mrs Linton found that moving lenders is not always possible. The couple had two mortgages with the Midland. One is a five-year fixed-rate endowment mortgage at 7.45 per cent. This loan covers half the couple's outstanding loan. The other is a standard variable-rate repayment loan at 7.65 per cent, covering the other half.

Mr Linton said: "The reason for taking out two mortgages was hedging. While we wanted to take advantage of the fixed-rate deals, we also wanted to have the flexibility to pay off small amounts in addition to the monthly interest payments and the variable rate allows us to do that. We are both self-employed so our income varies." It is not possible to pay extra lump sums to pay off the fixed-rate mortgage. But as lenders started offering better discounts, the Lintons decided to try to remortgage their variable loan with a discounted variable rate.

Midland's discounts were not that good at the time so they went elsewhere. Mr Linton calculated that some of the rates on offer would have saved the couple more than £300 a month. But all the lenders they approached refused them, saying that Midland had first charge over the Lintons' property because of the fixed-rate loan. Any new lender would only have a second charge on the property, which none of them was prepared to accept.

The Lintons were stuck with the Midland. But the bank does not have any discounts for existing borrowers not moving house. It has three discounted rates of between 3.29 per cent and 3.59 per cent for a year depending on the borrower's deposit, but these are reserved for new borrowers or existing borrowers moving house. Mr Linton said: "The bank clearly believes that money is better spent getting new customers than keeping existing ones." The Lintons were pleased to hear the Midland had yielded.

The bank does not have any discounts for existing borrowers

John Massey, head of mortgage services at the Midland, said: "Our policy is to attract new customers, but we also want to do all we can to help our existing customers. The Lintons are not the first people we have helped in this way."

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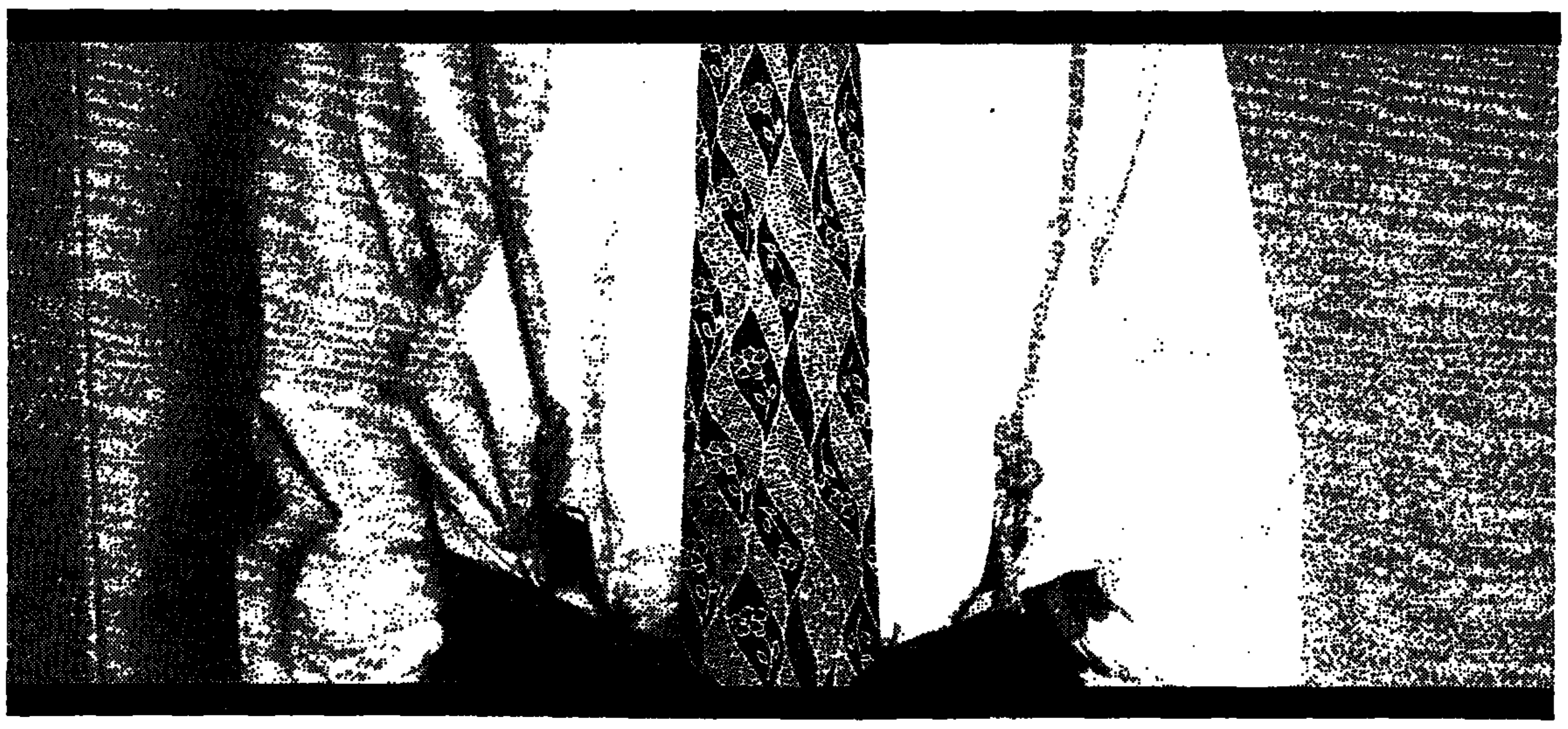

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not just from regulators, but also from consumers as they become more aware

Watchdog on the policy prowl

Life insurance companies, including the life divisions of banks and building societies that appear to be selling a high proportion of endowment mortgages, may soon be targeted by investment regulators and asked to prove they have been giving suitable advice, it was announced this week.

This would underline regulators' continuing concern over possible mis-selling of endowments. In spite of this, big lenders are still selling large numbers of endowment mortgages. For example, 70 per cent of clients introduced to the Halifax Building Society by brokers buy endowments.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders says that in the first quarter of this year, more than half of buyers were sold endowments, and 63 per cent of first-time buyers, although the latter are likelier to be young and single and not in need of savings plans based on life assurance.

The Personal Investment Authority (PIA), which regulates sales of endowment schemes, has been told by its independent consumer panel that all life offices should be made to disclose what proportion of mortgages arranged by salesmen are linked to endowment policies. This would identify which companies are most actively selling such policies, and PIA inspectors could then target them.

Under present rules, banks, building societies and others are not compelled to give "best advice" on mortgage repayment methods. They often recommend endowments, even when these may not be suitable, because they pay the highest commission.

A report earlier this year by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) said endowments can be the costliest and riskiest way of covering a loan, even for borrowers who keep up repayments. There is no guarantee that an endowment will even pay off a loan, let alone provide a tax-free lump sum on top. Some borrowers could find themselves up to £10,000 worse off with an endowment than a repayment by the end of the mortgage term, the OFT calculated. Sir Bryan Carsberg, then head of the OFT, said that high endowment sales suggested possible mis-selling.

The PIA consumer panel joined the OFT in calling for new legislation to bring mortgage advice under the Financial Services Act. This would make lenders prove that an endowment was more suitable than a repayment or other sort of mortgage. However, it stopped short of advising the PIA to review past endowment sales, as it has personal pensions. Young, single people and others who may have been better off with a repayment mortgage could still do well with a high-performing, competitively-priced endowment. Borrowers are growing increasingly suspicious of endowments after bad publicity. In interviews with the consumer panel, borrowers blamed life companies for over-optimistic projections and promises that policies would be guaranteed to pay off the mortgage. They also accused salesmen of selling policies for the commission.

But banks, building societies, estate agents and brokers are still selling more endowments than any other sort of mortgage. The Halifax's latest figures show that in February just over half of its new borrowers, including first-time buyers, had endowments from Halifax Life, the society's life assurance arm. Halifax branches and Halifax Property Services, the society's estate agency chain, are agents of Halifax Life and can sell only its policies. Mike Cherry of the Halifax said: "It is not a question of everyone just getting an endowment. We believe our endowment policy is one of the best, with a competitive charging structure and better surrender values [than our competitors]."

More than 60 per cent of General Accident Life's mortgage customers have endowments. This figure includes first-time buyers and borrowers who have endowments from previous purchases. An estimated 80 per cent of GA's mortgage business comes through GA Property Services, its 450 branch estate agency chain. Mortgage advisers at GA Property Services work for GA Mortgage and Financial Services, GA's financial services arm, which can sell only GA Life policies. John Whitehead, of GA, said: "There isn't any bias towards commission-based products." Barclays, the largest of the big four banks, says, however, that it is coming under pressure from customers who do not want endowments. A total of 48 per cent of Barclays customers had endowments at the end of last year, lower than the industry average. Nationwide says fewer than 20 per cent of its new borrowers have endowments, adding that there is "a conscious move away from endowments".

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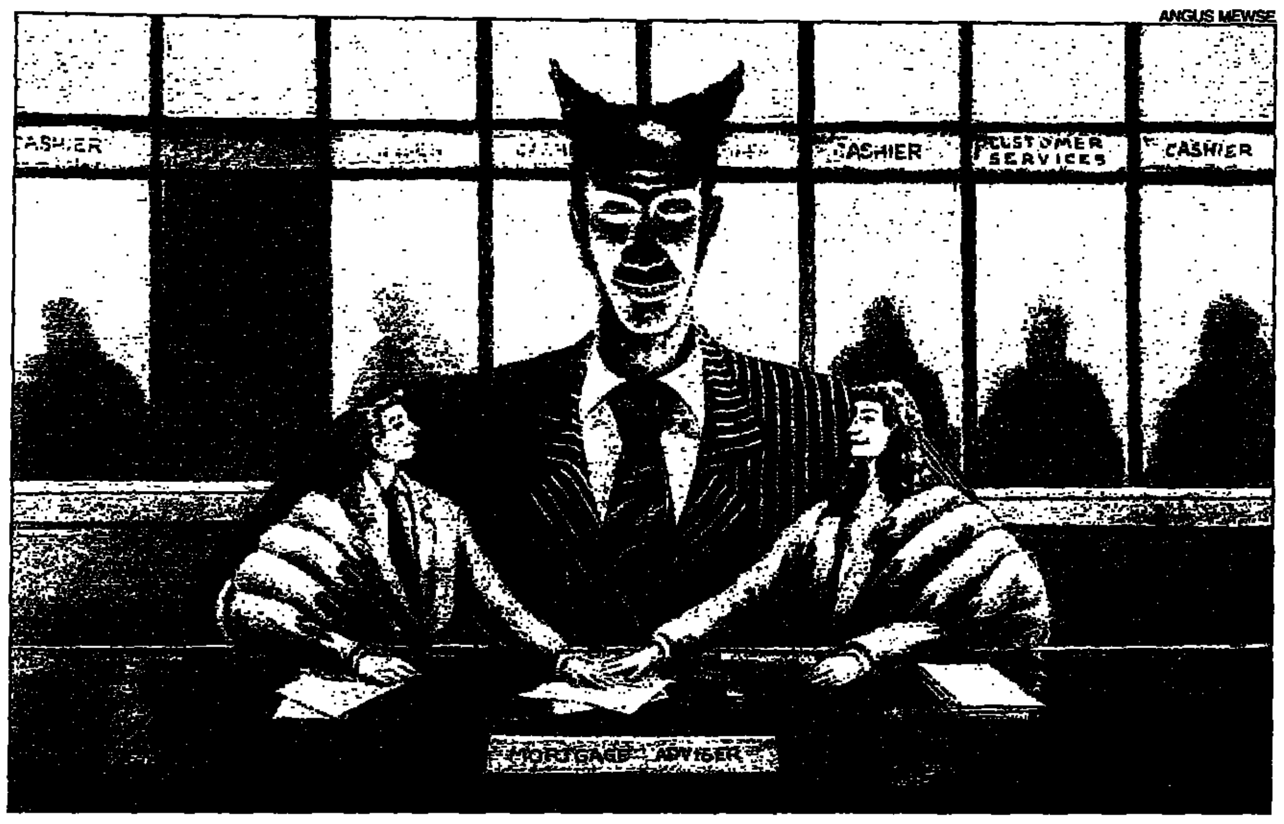

Hits and myths of endowments

An endowment policy is guaranteed to pay off your mortgage at the end of the mortgage term.

False. Many prospective borrowers are told that the payment from the endowment policy is guaranteed, as an additional inducement to take out an endowment rather than a repayment mortgage. One borrower told the Personal Investment Authority's consumer panel: "I thought it was a guaranteed thing. I thought, say when your house was worth, I don't know, £50,000, then I'd get £50,000 to pay my house off . . ."

In fact, endowment payouts are not guaranteed. They are stock market investments and their value can fall. The monthly premium you pay assumes a certain level of growth. If the underlying investments fail to grow at the assumed rate, there could be a shortfall unless you pay a higher premium.

Over the past few years, returns have fallen on endowments owing to a combination of poor stock market performance, low interest rates and low inflation. Several companies have already written to policyholders advising them to raise premiums if this continues, and others may have to.

An endowment will pay me an extra tax-free lump sum as well as paying off the mortgage.

False, for the same reasons as those outlined above. You *may* get a tax-fee lump sum, but this is not guaranteed. Salesmen use the magic words "tax-free" as an extra inducement. Borrowers who took out policies in the late 1980s are likely to be hardest hit if lower returns continue because the market started to fall soon after they took out their policies. The Personal Investment Authority heard from one borrower: "Endowments were the thing. Not so long ago, they were pushing these and telling us they were the bees' knees, greatest thing to have and to pay your mortgage off. Then there'll be a £20,000 cash lump sum to put in your pocket."

The insurance company should tell me if there could be a shortfall on my policy when I come to paying back the mortgage.

False. The company has no duty to tell you, although some will review your premiums regularly and let you know if you have to pay more. This is more likely if your policy is unit-linked. Holders of with profits policies have traditionally not had such reviews. If you are concerned but you have heard nothing, contact the company or the person who sold you the policy.

Endowments are more flexible than repayments.

False, although it is a well-used sales line. Endowments are flexible in that they can be taken from one property to another and linked to a new mortgage. But once you have an endowment, you will almost certainly lose money if you try and cash it in before it matures or stop paying premiums. Unless you use savings or other capital from elsewhere to pay off debt during the term, your outstanding debt will be the same at the end as it was at the beginning. With a repayment mortgage, you are repaying capital from the beginning. Sales people will tell you you have to start again for another 25-year-term with a repayment mortgage every time you move house. But there is nothing to stop you choosing a shorter term, paying off debt during the term or selling up altogether and repaying the debt.

Endowments earn salesmen more commission than repayments.

True. Salesmen are paid a commission for each endowment they sell.

They will not normally get a commission for repayment mortgages, although some lenders may pay them an introductory fee. Independent advisers who charge fees should get no financial advantage from offering you an endowment rather than a repayment.

In some cases, the whole of the first two years' premiums on an endowment goes in commission and other expenses.

Salesmen have had to disclose commission since the beginning of this year, which has forced more life companies to pay salaries and spread commission over the term of the policy, lessening the impact on surrender values of upfront commission.

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Time to dust off those old retirement plans

A contract sold before personal pensions arrived may be giving a poor return, says

Caroline Merrell

CLIFFORD HARPER

Thousands of people who have been investing in an obscure type of retirement contract, sold before the advent of personal pensions, could be looking at very low returns on their investments.

Over the last few years, the entire focus of attention in the pensions industry has been on new-style personal pensions.

However, before personal pensions came into existence, another type of contract existed that allowed those who were self-employed or who did not have access to an occupational scheme to save for retirement.

Thousands of these plans, called S226 contracts, were sold before the advent of personal pensions in 1988. In some ways, these schemes were like personal pensions, but did not allow the policyholder to leave the state pension scheme.

This may well be the moment for those who bought an S226 contract to blow the dust of their policy documents to find out what they are investing in, and to discover how their investments are performing.

One particular group of policyholders who could be in for a shock about the performance of their funds are those who put their investment into "deposit administration" contracts. These tended to put policyholders' money on deposit or invested in gilts rather than on the stock market.

The money could also have been placed in a building society account-linked fund, where returns are linked to interest rates.

Over the past few years, the money invested in these policies would have produced a much lower return than policies invested in equities. It is almost impossible to uncover information about these pensions, and while many intermediaries remember selling them, many companies initially denied that they ever offered them.

With the sort of clarity only the pensions industry is capable of, some contracts which are invested in equities may also be termed "deposit administration".

Over the past five years, a typical managed fund would have produced an average return of about 12.4 per cent per annum, while money held on deposit would have produced on average annual return of about 7.1 per cent.

The problems associated with these contracts have been exacerbated by the changes sweeping the financial sector over the last few years. Many of the advisers who sold the contracts in the first place may no longer exist. They may have switched to become tied, or they may have simply gone bust, leaving their former clients with no continuing advice about how they should save for their retirement.

Anyone who has been sold this sort of contract should get a statement from their insurer, or other professional advice, about how their investments are performing.

Peter Timberlake, director at Legal & General, said: "There are probably more S226s in existence than personal pensions.

"Anyone looking at their old contracts may find that they should be increasing the amount that they are investing each month for their retirement. If they cannot increase contributions, it may be worth considering taking out or transferring to a personal pension."

Paul Greenwood, research actuary at William Fraser, said that some contracts were in fact invested in equities and some offered a guarantee.

Beware the bargain basement mortgage

The cut-price battle in the mortgage market reached fever pitch this week as lenders unveiled new products with interest rates of less than 1 per cent. But mortgage brokers are warning those interested in taking advantage of any of these very low deals to beware of the redemption penalties, some of which stretch for many years beyond the life of the special offer.

It is also worth remembering that the switch to a normal variable rate at the end of the offer period can be a tremendous shock to a borrower's finances.

Among those offering a cut-price deal is Bristol & West. It is offering a one-year fixed loan, with the rate fixed at 0.95 per cent until November 30, 1996. In order to qualify for this rate, the borrower has to have a deposit which is at least 10 per cent of the value of the property — those with a 5 per cent deposit will be able to get a 2.45 per cent rate. The redemption penalties stretch for five years from the date of the advance.

Other rates on offer from the Bristol & West include a 4.99 per cent two-year fixed rate. This rate, unlike the 0.95 per cent product, offers the fix for two full years from the date of the advance. Again, the redemption penalties stretch for five years.

This particular society is also offering a one-year discounted rate mortgage, which has a cash-back option. The discount is 3 per cent, giving a rate of 4.99 per cent, while the cash back is 2 per cent of the advance, or £3,000.

Other lenders coming into the market with fixed rates of less than 1 per cent include the Hinckley and Rugby and the National & Provincial. Those who have a 30 per cent deposit can benefit from a one-year fixed rate of 0.75 per cent, from Hinckley and Rugby.

Those potential borrowers with less of a deposit — 5 or 10 per cent — can benefit from one-year fixed-rate loans of 2.75 per cent and 4.75 per cent respectively.

Longer-term fixed rates, with redemption penalties stretching over a shorter period of time are also available. The interest rates on these loans is fixed at a much higher rate, which means that the switch to the variable rate will not be such a shock for the borrower.

Bristol & West offers five-year fixed-rate loans of between 8.74 per cent and 9.24 per cent, according to the amount of deposit.

Chase de Vere Mortgage management is offering a two-year 4.45 per cent fixed rate, with redemption penalties equal to six months interest for three years.

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Far East leads the way in a varied list of trust launches

The current crop of new trust launches offers investors a considerable degree of variety. Heading the list of those in the market to raise money is Martin Currie's Japan Investment Trust, which closes next Friday, and hopes to raise up to £40 million. Martin Currie Japan, with a minimum investment of £500, has introduced a new alternative to the standard offer of one free warrant for every five shares bought. Investors can, if they wish, choose cash instead of warrants at the equivalent of 25p per warrant representing 5p per share.

The Martin Currie newcomer, which has already received firm commitments of £15 million, will look to invest in about 60 large, medium and small companies, principally listed on the more accessible first and second sections of the Tokyo Stock Exchange and the over-the-counter market.

Michael Thomas, the trust manager, already looks after Martin Currie's £29 million Japan unit trust. In September, when Fund Research cast its slide rule over the unit trust, it gave it a AAA rating. The Edinburgh group forecasts that the Nikkei 225 index of leading Japanese companies will reach 21,000 by the end of 1996 from its current position of 17,843. At its peak in 1989, the index stood at 39,000, so there is plenty of scope for an upward improvement on the current position.

Also following the Far Eastern investment theme, although Japan is specifically excluded from the portfolio, is Kleinwort Benson with its new Asian Growth unit trust. This follows a restructure this summer of its old £93 million Pacific trust. The new portfolio invests in the Pacific Basin stock markets. It has a minimum investment of £500 (£25 a month) with annual an annual charge of 1.5 per cent and an up-front fee of 5.5 per cent although there is a 2 per cent discount on investments made before November 30.

TRUST WATCH

Two new investment trusts with a difference are Finsbury's Technology trust and Emerald, to be run by Capital Trust Financial Management, the specialist Northern Ireland fund managers.

Emerald, whose prospectus was published yesterday and whose market debut is sponored by Rea Brothers and Davy Stockbrokers, will have a dual listing in London and Dublin and invest on both sides of the Irish Border. The managers hope to raise between £15 million and £40 million and have offered one free warrant for every five shares.

David Lamont, a partner of Capital Trust, says: "Over the past four years the Republic's economy has recorded the fastest growth of any European Union country. In the North, there has been a significant recovery, which has undoubtedly been enhanced by the paramilitary cease-fire arrangements."

Finsbury's FinTech trust, also sponsored by Rea Brothers, is looking to raise at least £20 million and has a minimum investment level of £1,000. The portfolio is expected to start off with up to 30 core holdings, with the remainder spread over some 50 companies at a less mature stage of development.

Friends Provident will be delighted if its new-style Venture Capital Trust, which offers official Pep-style tax breaks, raises £20 million. The minimum investment is £2,000 and a five-year view is needed.

Details: Martin Currie Japan: 0800 132647; Emerald: 0171-623 1155; Kleinwort: 0800 317573; Friends Provident: 0171-329 4454.

ROBERT MILLER

Nordic markets are on song, says **Robert Miller**

The winner takes it all in Scandinavian stocks

Half an empire: the sound of money making money

Scandanavian markets have been quietly making money this year while the focus has been on racier investment stories, such as US technology stocks, Japan, and the Mexican peso falling 50 per cent. Quietly, because there is no way of knowing, without researching individual unit and investment trust portfolios, or seeking independent advice, what exposure managers have to Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Norway. But the ability of these markets to generate useful profits should not be underestimated.

Nigel Triptree, a director and asset allocation specialist at Brewin Dolphin, the stockbroker, has had 50 per cent of his European pot, around 7 per cent of his global assets, invested in the Nordic markets for more than a year. He has done so mainly through the European unit trusts run by Morgan Grenfell's Peter Young and Fidelity's Anthony Bolton, a noted long-term fan of Scandinavian stock markets.

The latest Micropal statistics show that the Triptree approach has paid handsome dividends. Over the past 12 months, Morgan Grenfell's Europe and European Growth unit trusts are up 32 and 25 per cent respectively, well above the 7.61 per cent average return from the other 116 like-minded trusts. And that is after charges have been taken into account. In the same period, Fidelity's European Values Investment trust has produced a return of 26 per cent, before charges, against an average for the sector of 5 per cent.

Of the main Nordic markets, Sweden has probably the best known brand names. Electrolux, for example, is the world's biggest household appliance manufacturer, and this week announced a 21 per cent underlying rise in nine-month profits to 2.8 billion Swedish krona. Saab and Volvo also register high on the global recognition scale. But other Swedish exports are even more instantly recognisable. Who, for instance, has not heard of Abba, with a string of hits, from *Waterloo* and the apt *Money, Money, Money* to *The Winner Takes It All*. Or seen breathtaking base-line passing shots from Bjorn Borg's racket. At the height of their fame, Abba's financial conglomerate owned considerable chunks of the Swedish stock market and their turnover was said to rival that of Volvo.

Large parcels of the shares traded in Sweden are still spoken for by a few individuals and family trusts with numerous cross-holdings in each other. They may have released more shares onto the market, but many of these do not carry voting rights. But at least the region appears to have recovered from the banking crisis of the early 1990s, when Governments were forced to intervene heavily to save banks from going under. At Morgan Grenfell, Mr Young works with a team of 14 European specialists. Their job is to scour the Contintent in search of individual stocks that are cheap, rather than worrying about geography or sector. It is coincidence that MG's European portfolios are overweight in Scandinavia.

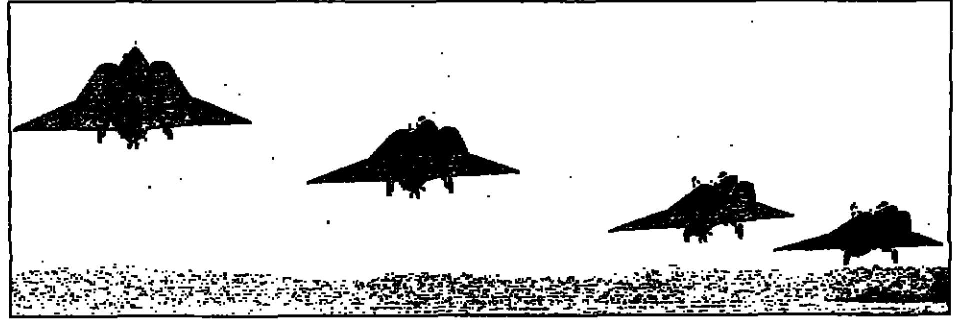
Nevertheless, he says, the story of cheap share prices that first attracted the MG stockpickers to Scandinavia still holds true in comparison with other European markets.

The Nordic attraction is mainly centred on Finland, Norway and Sweden, with Denmark running some way behind. The investment story is not so much the traditional industries such as fishing, tourism and oil, although roughly a quarter of Norway's annual economic growth still comes from North Sea oil. According to Mr Young, it is in the broadest sense telecommunications. Finland's Nokia, the mobile phone maker, which accounts for up to 30 per cent of the country's stock market, has many of the components it needs made in neighbouring countries. In Sweden, there is Ericsson, a telecoms manufacturing equipment company, and in Norway it is Nera. Our own Rentokil, is in large part owned by the Danish Sophus Berendsen. Denmark also boasts Novonordisk, which produces ensigmns for brewing, washing powders and wood bleaches.

In performance terms, NatWest Securities says that the Financial Times/Standard & Poors World Index Nordic is showing a gain of 24.5 per cent over the past 12 months and 16.7 per cent over six months. These are considerably better rises than those of other European indices. Hamish Buchan, a director of NatWest Securities, also adds that favourable currency plays have helped the Scandinavian success story by producing extra profits for sterling investors.

Nordic experts take the view that share prices in the region are relatively cheap compared with other countries in Europe. Companies such as Nokia, which has roared ahead from a low base two years ago, offer better value than companies doing the same job in other European countries. What also attracts many fund managers researching Scandinavian countries is the openess with which they react to probing questions about their financial affairs and their plans for the future. This is in marked contrast to others, notably German companies, which are often loath to part with more information than necessary.

Mr Triptree, as befits a cautious money manager, plans to take some of his Scandinavian profits, although he intends to retain a good exposure to these markets for the medium term, at least. The profit, by the way, is headed for the French market.



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Source of figures: Micropal to 06.11.95. [1] Gross income reinvested on Schroder UK Enterprise Fund since 01.08.88. £6,000 became £21,696. [2] Gross income reinvested since 01.08.88. 1/303

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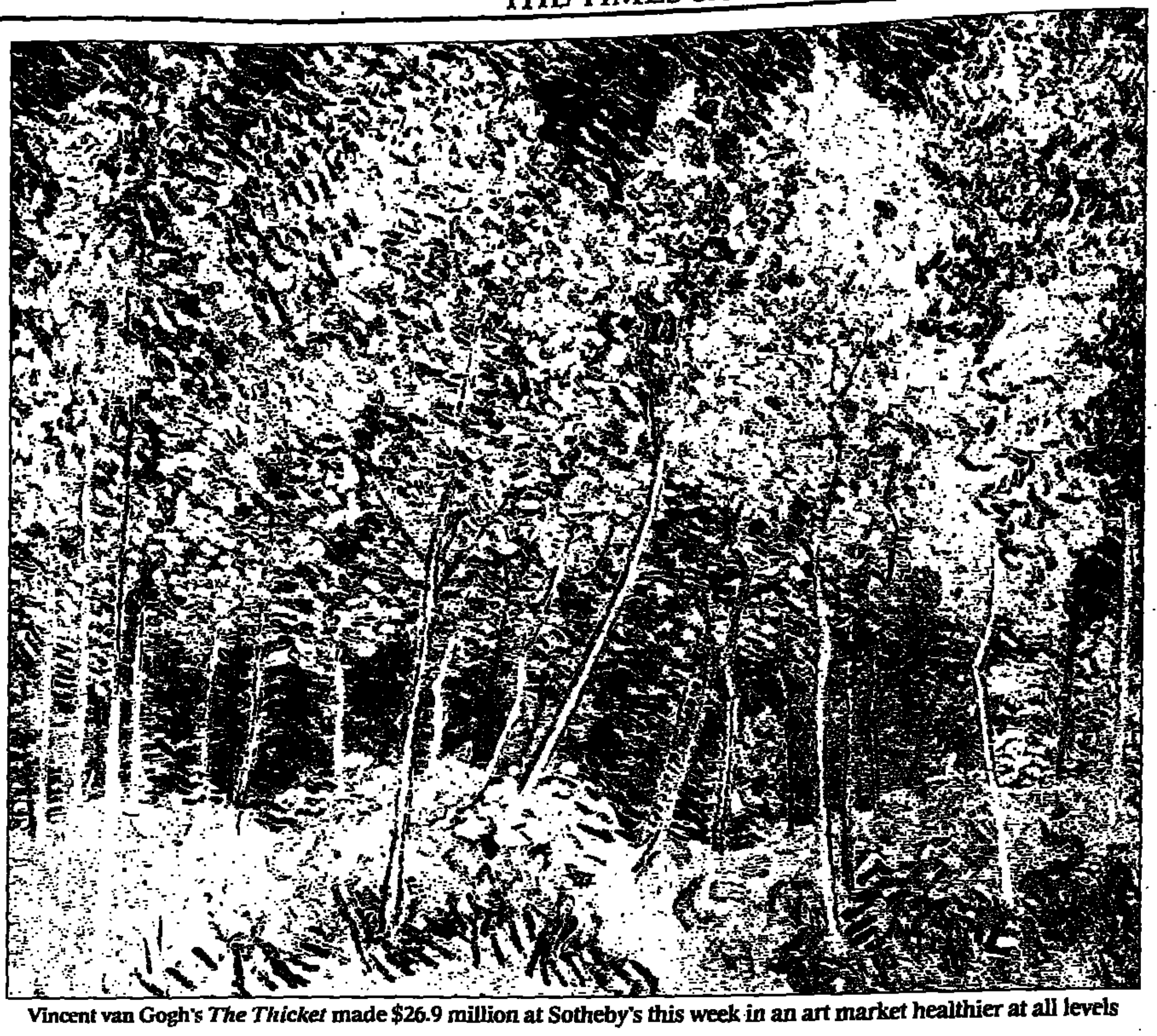

Vincent van Gogh's *The Thicket* made $26.9 million at Sotheby's this week in an art market healthier at all levels

Picture emerges of art market revival

The time has come to look more closely at those familiar paintings, hanging demurely on your walls, that you always suspected might be worth something.

The chances are that over the past few years they would not have fetched a lot, if anything. The art market has been in the doldrums for most of the 1990s after its glory days of upwardly spiralling prices in the late 1980s. But that is all changing. Major sales of impressionist and modern paintings at Sotheby's and Christie's in New York this week have shown that the art market is roaring back to life.

Both auction houses broke through the $100 million sales level in their main auctions for the first time since May 1990. Christie's triumphantly offloaded Picasso's *Le Miroir* for $20 million on Tuesday. The following day, Sotheby's found a buyer willing to spend $26.9 million on a lush forest landscape by Van Gogh called *The Thicket* — three times the amount estimated by the experts. Both houses were offering more works valued at $5 million or above than they have for years.

A good indication of the revival in activity is the overall sales figures of the auctioneers. Turnover at Christie's, for example, has more than doubled since last year. Sales in 1994 were about $60 million, but this week alone they reached $105 million, after a hefty $60 million in May.

"Of course, the important works can always go into the stratosphere," says Michael Findlay, the senior director of Impressionist and modern painting at Christie's, New York. "There were buyers from Europe, Japan, Taiwan and South America as well as the US. They were trade dealers, syndicates and individual collectors."

David Nash, director of Sotheby's paintings division, says: "This is not crazy or speculative buying. The market is very much back in the hands of collectors who are willing to spend solid blocks of money for good works."

However, while the very top end of the market is soaring, what is giving auctioneers and investors most satisfaction is the depth of the art market revival at lower price levels.

Collectors are now willing to spend solid blocks of money for good works

Although sales of major works grab the headlines, a larger sale of cheaper works by a wider range of artists is a better indicator of the market. "The strength goes right the way down through the whole market, even to the level of decorative pictures," Mr Nash says.

Christie's put up 250 lots on Wednesday from painters as diverse as Picasso, Chagall and Miró, mostly priced at $100,000 to $500,000. They sold well. "What it shows is that although prices have not shot up for most paintings, they are selling well," says Mr Findlay. "The market can absorb a lot of material if the price is right."

That goes for the big paintings, too. Sotheby's failed to sell several Picassos and a Matisse because, by common agreement among the experts, their sellers had overpriced them. Even further down the scale, cheaper artists are selling well. "The lower slopes of the market are sound if priced accordingly," says Mr Findlay. "Stuff priced at around $30,000 is doing very well. These are often works from well-known artists that we could not sell for any price a couple of years ago."

The New York and London markets are not, of course, identical. New York is known for its adventurousness, and London tends to be more staid and cautious. Moreover, conditions in the US are good. The economy has been strong this year and the stock market has boomed, which always helps to make art investors feel that much richer. The UK economy has not been quite so strong — or, at least, the "feel-good" factor remains somewhat elusive — but, given the international nature of art investing these days, this may not matter. Prices have been just as strong in the UK, as a sale in London by Sotheby's last June showed.

Mr Findlay says: "Although the London market is less given to impulsive bidding, if we had offered the same pictures there as we did here this week, we would have had the same buyers and achieved the same prices."

Mr Nash agrees, saying: "Our marketing in London and New York goes to the same people. The market is so international now."

The message is clear. You don't have to own a Van Gogh to be able to sell a picture these days. Even quite modest paintings that probably would not have sold for anything like their fair value — if at all — even a year ago are now likely to be seen as a valuable property by the art market. As long as you are not looking for ridiculously high prices, your painting is far more likely to sell now than it was a year ago.

And if you are an investor, things look equally good. Prices, in general, are not astronomical because sellers and auction houses are being conservative. However, equally important is that the choice of what is on offer has broadened enormously in the past few months. There are more works in all price ranges on sale now than at any other time in the 1990s.

RICHARD THOMSON
in New York

Borrowers guide to mortgage insurance

THE Council of Mortgage Lenders has finally produced a guide to mortgage indemnity insurance for borrowers (Caroline Merrell writes).

This long-awaited move follows an 18-month legal wrangle between lenders, borrowers, insurance companies and independent financial advisers. The row has focused on whether lenders and insurance companies had the right to pursue those whose property had been repossessed for any shortfall between the outstanding loan and money reaped from selling the property.

Some firms, including the Southend-based Union Finance, were urging those who had been repossessed to resist paying off their debts. It claimed that mortgage indemnity insurance, taken out by lenders, but paid for by borrowers, would pay off the outstanding debt.

However, the CML's guide, which is based on legal opinion, warns borrowers about following this advice. It says: "Some advisers have misunderstood the nature of mortgage indemnity and wording of the mortgage indemnity policies. Mortgage indemnity covers only your lender and does not affect your personal promise to pay the loan. Consequently, you should be very wary of taking advice offered by any person or company that by simply handing your property back to your lender, you will be covered by lender's mortgage indemnity and so avoid any shortfall. As you can see such advice is wrong."

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Sara McConnell on moves to avoid chaos in bonus share allocations

Abbey pledge on N&P payout

The sleuthing skills of Sherlock Holmes would be needed to resolve some current disputes over share allocations

Abbey National promised this week that National & Provincial members in line for bonus payments in Abbey shares after the bank's takeover of N&P would not see a repeat performance of the administrative chaos which followed Abbey's own flotation as a public company in 1989.

Customers are still disputing allocations of Abbey shares, more than six years after the float.

The promise comes as N&P moves into top gear to try to get its membership register up to date in time for the takeover.

It has just written to its 1.3 million members eligible for bonuses of Abbey shares urging them to tell the society of any changes of name or address. It hopes to avoid issuing duplicate sets of shares or sending information to old addresses. Customers who think they are eligible for a payout but who have not heard from the society should contact their branch. Qualifying N&P members stand to get at least £500 of Abbey shares if the takeover goes ahead next summer.

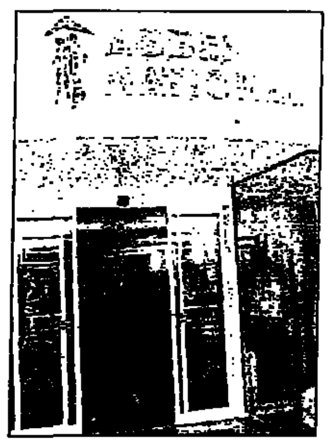
Abbey was the first building society to convert to a bank and issue free shares to members in return for agreeing to the conversion. But the issue was dogged with problems, some of which are only now coming to light as people try to sell their shares.

Some customers were issued with too many shares because they had several accounts listed in slightly different names. Abbey failed to "deduplicate" all of these, instead allocating two sets of shares to some investors. It also had to contend with the public relations fiasco which ensued when half a million Abbey share certificates were discovered burnt in a skip in southeast London.

Duplicate certificates had to be issued but the records of Lloyds Bank, then registrar for Abbey shares, were not good enough to be certain that duplicates had been issued to the right people.

John Fry, Abbey's deputy chairman, admits: "The system of checks and controls then was not adequate." But he declared himself "very confident" that the forthcoming share issue would be properly handled and the share register run efficiently from the bank's Sheffield office.

He believes all financial institutions have learnt from Abbey's mistakes. Issuing shares to N&P members should be simpler, Mr Fry says. There are fewer people involved. Abbey National had to deal with ten million computer entries and slim them down to 5.8 million eligible members. N&P has done a lot of work on its membership register. Abbey has also improved its systems, making it easier to spot discrepancies in the register.



But the *Weekend Money* readers who are still disputing their allocations in Abbey's first distribution will take some convincing. The investigative skills of Sherlock Holmes, who lived at 221b Baker Street, now the address of the Abbey National headquarters, would be needed to help to resolve their cases.

Ravi Dutta of Middlesex contacted *The Times* after reading of the experiences of the Hyland family. John and Christine Hyland had tried to sell their Abbey shares but instead were asked to return 100 of the shares, worth nearly £500, after Abbey said they had received too large an allocation. Savers and borrowers were each allocated 100 free shares. Those who were both savers and borrowers like Mr Hyland were allocated 200. But Mr Hyland received 300 shares because his name appeared twice in a slightly different form in Abbey's records.

Mr Dutta checked his own share certificates after reading of the Hylands' experience. He discovered that his own name had also been wrongly spelt on one of his certificates. He had been allocated 300 free shares instead of 200. He contacted Abbey to point this out. Abbey demanded the return of the certificates and removed 100 shares from Mr Dutta. It also asked him to repay £68.95 in dividend payments. Mr Dutta refused and the Abbey this week bowed to pressure from *The Times* to waive this demand.

Abbey said: "We have to be careful. We could not always tell if the accounts belonged to the same person." It had been up to customers to make sure they had signed forms for the right allocation of shares, it said.

Jean Burnett has been trying since April to get the 100 free shares she says are due to her mother after the death of her father who owned the account. Mrs Burnett says her father never received the shares. "My father was particularly cross because Abbey claimed he had already had the shares. He was very meticulous and he would have had a record of them."

Abbey says it has a record of a share certificate being sent and suggests Mrs Burnett's father sold the shares immediately. But it cannot prove this without going back into other records. This will take up to 12 weeks and cost Mrs Burnett £30.

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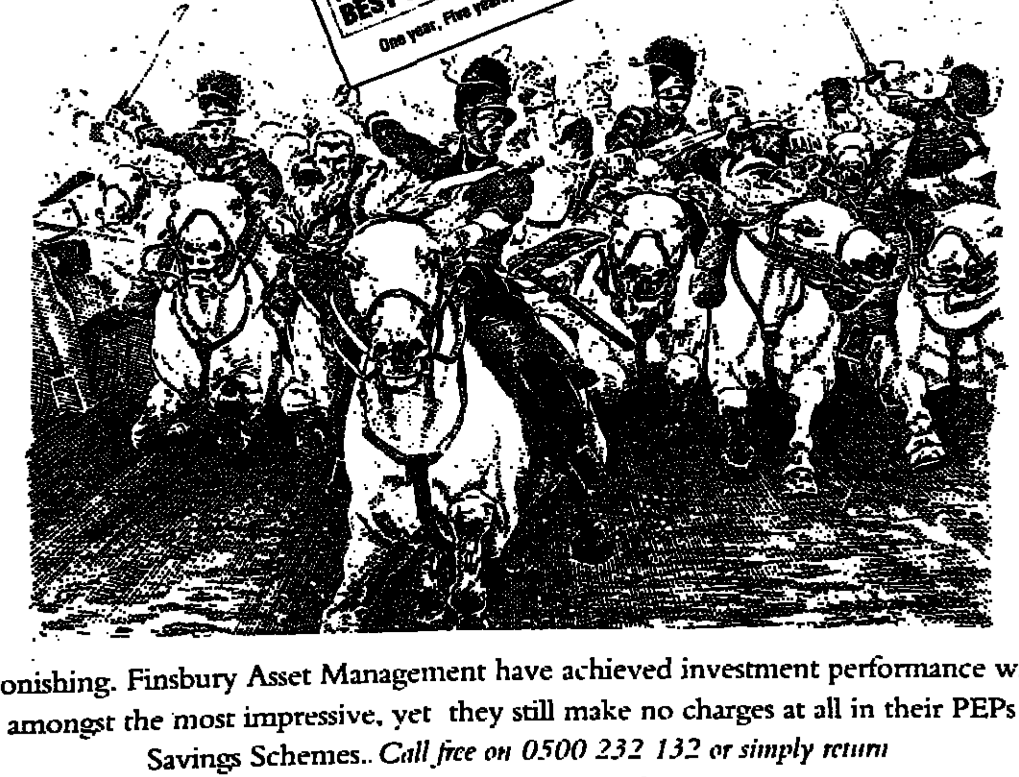
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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Bank adds to card facility

Barclays Bank is replacing its existing cash-only card with a new Barclaybank payment card. The card has two added features: "Electron", for paying for goods and services in the UK and abroad, and "Plus", for withdrawing money from cash machines worldwide. This is the first time that a bank in the United Kingdom has offered all its customers the use of a debit card. Available from Monday, the Barclaybank card will be sent to existing current account holders when their old card expires or to new customers opening an account.

■ One in four of the population will require residential care in their old age, but the majority will not have the resources to pay for it, according to *The Over-60s Directory*. The guide offers invaluable advice to anyone concerned with old age, providing information on legal and financial matters, health, and accommodation. The guide will be available in book shops from Monday, priced at £9.99.

■ Age Concern Insurance Services (ACIS) is advising those booking holidays now to shop around for the best insurance deals. ACIS's travel policy is designed to meet the specific needs of the older traveller, without automatically increasing insurance premiums because of age. The policy includes worldwide cover for up to 6 months and medical and emergency expenses up to £2 million. For further information, as well as a free copy of Age Concern's *Holiday Hints* guide, write to Age Concern Insurance Services, Garrod House, Chaldon Road, Caterham, Surrey CR3 5YZ.

■ Allied Dunbar has published a 700-page comprehensive guide to business tax and law which considers both the legal environment in which businesses operate and taxation obligations which must be met. *The Allied Dunbar Business Tax and Law Handbook* costs £23 and can be purchased from book shops, or from FT Law and Tax on 0800 289 618.

The Office of Fair Trading's current consumer information pack can be obtained, free of charge, by calling 0181 398 3405. Included is the latest in the *Know Your Rights* series, called *Using a Pawnbroker*.

LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Britannia BS 01538 392808	Capital Trust	Postal	£2,000	5.60	Yly
Co-operative Bank 0345 252000	Pathfinder	Instant	£5,000	5.90	Mly
Leeds & Holbeck BS 0113 2438292	Albion	Postal	£10,000	6.00	Yly
Brmnghm Midshires BS 0645 720721	First Class	Postal	£25,000	6.20	Yly

FIXED RATES	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Investment Cert	1yr bond	£1,000	6.60	F/OM
Leeds & Holbeck BS 0113 244 0357	Investment Bond	2yr bond	£5,000	7.05	F/Yly
Woolwich BS 0800 400900	Fixed Rate Bond	3yr bond	£500	7.25	F/Yly
Brmnghm Midshires BS 0645 720721	Millennium Bond	4yr bond	£5,000	7.75	F/Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS AND BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Nottingham BS 0115 948 1444	Postmark	7 day p	£2,500	5.90	Yly
Scarborough BS 0800 590578	Scarborough 50	50 day	£1,000	6.60	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Postal 90	90 day p	£10,000	6.80	Yly
Greenwich BS 0181 858 8212	Flagship Term	1 yr bnd	£5,000	7.00	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.98%G	12.40%	Nil C
Royal Bank of Scotland 0800 161616	MasterCard	1.14%	14.50%	Nil C
Frizzell Bank 0800 373191	MasterCard/Visa	1.17%	16.10%	£11

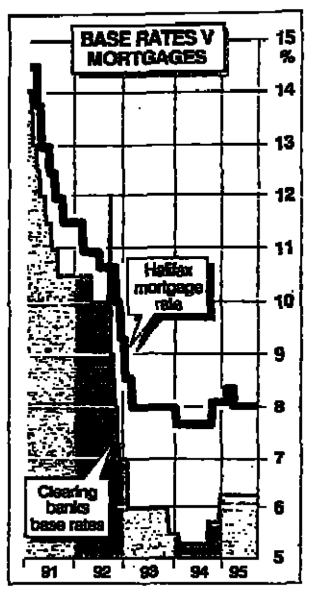
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

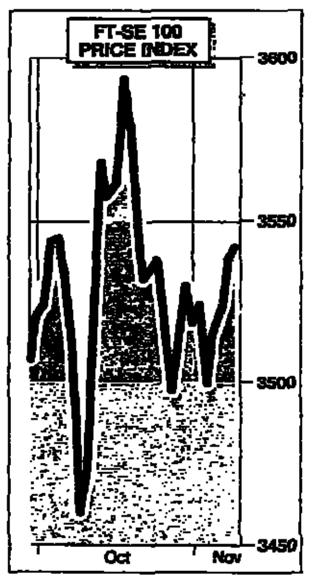
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Midland 0800 180180	15.40%	£116.54	£103.14
N&P BS 0800 808080	15.50%	£118.22	£103.29
Clydesdale Bank 0800 240024	16.20%	£113.94	£103.33

Nb. A - Feeder account required. In the interest paid columns, C = no interest free period D = annual fee rebated £1.5K+ charged per annum E = Annual fee waived for 1st year for new accounts F = fixed rate (all other rates are variable); OM denotes interest paid on maturity

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	40%	Min/maximum investmnt £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	2.00	1.50	1.20	10-10,000		01416494555
Investment A/c* •	5.25	3.94	3.15	20-499	1mth	01416494555
Income Bond* •	6.50	4.88	3.90	2,000-24,999	3mth	01253766151
First Opt Bond•	6.40	4.80	3.84	1,000-250,000		01416362558
42nd Issue Cert†°	5.85			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Children's Bond†	7.85			25-1,000	1mth	01416362635
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					
Capital Bond§ •	7.75	5.81	4.65	100-250,000	8day	01416362603
8th Index Linked†§	3.00			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Pensnrs Bond S2 •	7.50	5.63	4.50	500-20,000•	60day	01253766151

¹ first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 · Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble •Guaranteed when held for 5 years °0.3% net bonus for £20,000+ *£40,000 jt in addition to S1 holdings ¶Taxable but cred in full.

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential ....Level	£10,377	£11,391	£12,758
Sun Life of Can ....Level	£10,255	£11,297	£12,667
Canada Life..........Level	£10,058	£11,227	£12,810
Standard Life ....Level	£10,136	£11,204	£12,584
Equitable Life.......Level	£10,277	£11,187	£12,381

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential ....Level	£9,625	£10,355	£11,428
Royal Life ....Level	£9,313	£10,149	£11,380
Sun Life of Can....Level	£9,364	£10,143	£11,241
Stalwart* ....Level	£9,477	£10,114	£10,992
Canada Life ....Level	£9,230	£10,069	£11,300

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Prudential ....Level	£9,237	£9,803	£10,599
Sun Life of Can ....Level	£8,993	£9,588	£10,418
Equitable Life ......Level	£9,046	£9,563	£10,276
Generali ....Level	£8,929	£9,547	£10,401
Royal Life ....Level	£8,855	£9,496	£10,413

* = Maximum purchase £100,000. Higher rates for smokers.
Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393)

Compiled by: Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME
Rates as at November 9, 1995

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	5,000	AIG Life	5.10
	10,000	AIG Life	5.15
	20,000	AIG Life	5.20
	50,000	AIG Life	5.25
2 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.50
	10,000	AIG Life	5.63
	20,000	AIG Life	5.73
	50,000	AIG Life	5.78
3 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.60
	20,000	AIG Life	5.67
	50,000	AIG Life	5.72
	100,000	AIG Life	5.82
4 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.90
	20,000	AIG Life	5.82
	50,000	AIG Life	5.87
5 Years			
	3,000	Abbey Life	6.70
	15,000	Abbey Life	6.90
	50,000	Abbey Life	7.10

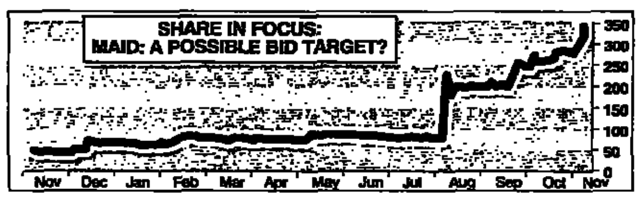
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Rates net of 25% tax (which cannot be reclaimed). Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	96.67	9.690	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	118.87	9.764	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	132.73	9.777	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	135.31	9.871	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	130.99	9.904	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	122.40	9.886	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	112.22	10.465	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	91.13	9.600	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	123.95	9.504	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.625%	141.38	9.616	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	134.89	9.894	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	110.88	9.686	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	130.14	9.686	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	132.15	9.533	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	131.73	9.753	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
First National	9.30000%	100.75	100.00	1,000
Cheshire (28/03-28/09)	9.24766%	103.63	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source: ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Yorkshire 0800 378836	1.85	neg	95	6% disc 1 year, 2% disc 18 mths
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.95	£15k+	90	Fixed to 30.11.96
Northern Rock 0800 591 500	1.99	to £100k	90	6% discount to 1.2.97
Banks				
National Westminst 0121 234 2000	2.79	£15k+	75	5.20% discount for 1 year
Midland 0800 494999	2.79	£100k+	80	4.86% discount for 1 year

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Scarborough 0800 590547	0.75	£15,001-£100k	95	7.24% dsc-6mth, 2%-6mth,0.5%-1y
Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	0.75	to £150k	70	Fixed to 1.12.96
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.95	£15k+	90	Fixed to 30.11.96
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.51%dsc-6 mns 3% dsc-6 mns
Bank of Scotland 0131 243 5735	1.50	to £200k	95	6.49% discount for 6 months

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Brad & Bingley 0800 252 993	1.89	no limit	95	fixed to 1.10.96
Bristol & West 0800 100117	3.00	£15k+	95	4.74% discount for 12 months
Skipton 0800 446776	1.84	£25-150k	95	6% disc 5 mnths 1.75% disc 1 year
Banks				
Midland Bank 0800 494999	3.29	£30k+	95	4.36% discount for 1 year
Royal Bnk Scot 0131 523 4442	4.74	£15-150k	95	3.25% discount to 1.10.96

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Blay's Guides, 01753 880482.

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Aegon House, Lanark Square, London E14 9XS 0171 538 8800				
Balanced	501.30	530.50	- 1.00	...
UK Equity	634.00	671.00	- 3.60	...
Property	508.50	538.20	+ 0.60	...
Fixed Interest	342.10	362.10	+ 0.40	...
Money	259.40	274.60	+ 0.20	...
International	428.50	453.50	+ 3.00	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Property Fd Inc	248.50	261.60	...	0
-do- Acc	489.20	515.00	- 0.10	...
Equity Fd Inc	185.40	195.20	- 1.10	...
-do- Acc	254.40	267.80	- 1.40	...
Selective Fd	512.40	539.40	- 0.80	...
Money Fd	392.70	413.40	- 0.30	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	374.30	394.10	- 0.10	...
Equity Ser 4	239	251.60	- 0.90	...
Man Ser 4	700	736.90	- 1.50	...
Conv Ser 4	340.10	358.10	+ 0.30	...
Money Ser 4	339.90	357.80	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	364.60	383.80	- 0.30	...
American Ser 4	946.70	995.50	+ 1.50	...
High Inc Ser 4	743.30	782.50	- 1.80	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	222.10	233.80	+ 0.30	...
Japan Ser 4	338	355.80	+ 5.50	...
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	1679.20	1767.50	+ 2.70	...
European Fd Acc	396.90	417.70	- 1.80	...
Fixed Int Acc	537.60	565.90	+ 0.20	...
Gtd Money Acc	345.90	364.00	- 0.30	...
Intl Managed Acc	629.90	663.00	- 3.30	...
Int Fxd Int Acc	351.10	369.50	+ 2.00	...
Japan Fund	248.60	261.70	+ 4.70	...
N American Acc	362.30	381.30	+ 0.70	...
Prop Fd Acc	454.00	477.90	+ 0.50	...
Multiple Inv Acc	1094.30	1151.90	- 0.90	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	386.90	407.30	+ 0.30	...
Equity Acc	1520.20	1600.30	- 0.20	...
Property Acc	604.30	636.20	+ 0.60	.
Far East Acc	304.20	320.30	- 4.80	...
Managed Capital	563.20	592.90	- 0.60	...
-do- Acc	1169.40	1231.00	- 1.00	.
Overseas Acc	1022.90	1076.80	- 8.00	...
Gilt Edged Acc	515.80	543.00	- 1.00	...
Amer Equity Acc	919.80	968.30	+ 7.80	...
Amer Man Acc	386.30	406.70	+ 3.00	...
Amer Prop Acc	118.70	125.00	- 0.10	...
Distribution Bonds	24.50	25.80	.	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	167.80	176.60	+ 0.40	...
Balced Ser 6	771.80	812.40	+ 1.20	...
Opportunity Ser 6	175.70	184.90	+ 0.10	..
Distribution Ser 6	102.50	107.40	+ 0.30	6.95
UK Equities Ser 6	1076.20	1132.80	+ 0.90	..
Higher Inc Ser 6	1141.50	1201.50	+ 2.70	..
North Amer Ser 6	545.70	574.40	+10.20	...
Far East Ser 6	556.80	586.10	- 0.90	...
Europe Ser 6	414.70	436.50	+ 0.90	...
Intnl Ser 6	612.50	644.50	+ 4.00	...
Property Ser 6	567.10	596.90	+ 0.60	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	467.10	491.60	+ 1.40	...
Ind-Lnkd Sec S6	190.40	200.40	+ 0.50	...
Gteed Dep Ser 6	308.60	324.80	+ 0.40	...
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	924.10	972.80	- 1.30	...
-do- Initial	591.10	622.30	- 0.80	...
Gilt Edged Acc	408.80	430.40	- 0.80	...
-do- Initial	263.90	277.80	- 0.60	...
International Acc	423.90	446.30	+ 1.00	...
-do- Initial	271.70	286.10	+ 1.20	...
Managed Acc	564.30	594.00	- 0.50	...
-do- Initial	363.00	382.20	+ 0.30	...
Money Acc	301.50	317.40	- 0.20	...
Property Acc	305.40	321.50	+ 0.30	...
-do- Initial	195.30	205.60	...	...
America Acc	328.00	345.30	+ 2.30	...
Australia Acc	221.70	233.40	- 1.10	...
Financial Acc	398.10	419.10	+ 0.20	...
500 Accum	474.90	499.90	+ 0.20	...
Japan Genl Acc	307.10	323.30	+ 7.60	...
Income Acc	564.10	593.80	+ 2.00	...
Leisure Acc	274.00	288.50	+ 3.20	...
Special Sits Acc	267.50	281.60	+ 0.60	...
Univ Tech Acc	178.00	187.40	+ 0.20	...
BLACK HORSE LIFE Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	864.07	864.07	+ 4.70	...
Income Fund	821.69	864.93	+ 1.00	...
Extra Income	750.69	790.20	+ 1.21	...
Worldwide Gth	509.15	535.95	+ 2.03	...
Balanced Fund	719.09	757.85	+ 2.72	...
Smllr Cos Recov	859.94	905.20	+ 6.46	...
N Amer & Genrl	401.88	423.04	+ 6.12	..
Pacific Basin	406.91	428.33	- 6.89	...
German Growth	245.85	258.79	+ 0.57	...
Japan Growth	183.76	193.44	+ 1.26	...
The UK Gth Fd	230.50	242.64	+ 0.79	...
Contl Euro Gth	144.37	151.97	- 0.70	...
Property Fund	413.30	435.06	- 0.65	...
Fixed Interest	334.02	351.60	+ 3.04	...
Cash Fund	293.56	309.02	+ 0.29	...
Managed Inv	520.62	548.02	+ 2.91	...
Nth Amer Recov	278.35	293	+ 6.51	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Grth	516.82	544.01	- 0.09	..
BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE PO Box 37, Greenock, Renfrewshire 01475 868000				
Measured Perf	170.70	180.60	- 0.60	...
Performance Plus	176.40	186.60	- 2.30	...
With-Profit Perf	178.10	188.40	+ 0.10	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Opportunity	198.60	210.10	- 1.60	...
Euro Opportunity	237.80	251.60	- 0.70	...
North Amer Opp	185.50	196.20	+ 0.40	...
Far East Opp	188.10	199.00	- 6.70	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	130.00	136.90	...	.
Gth Prop Ser 2	193.10	204.30	+16.30	...
Fixed Int	206.90	218.90	+ 0.50	..
Cash	162.80	172.20	+ 0.10	6.74
Overseas	203.20	215.00	- 2.70	..
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	361.50	380.60	- 1.70	...
UK Equity	630.10	663.30	+ 2.90	...
Property	255.10	268.60	+ 0.10	...
Money Market	260.80	274.60	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	309.60	325.90	+ 1.10	...
Japan	349.30	367.70	+ 7.30	...
North America	173.00	182.30	+ 0.40	...
International	328.30	345.60	+ 1.20	...
European	310.00	326.40	- 0.90	...
Far East	132.90	139.90	- 5.70	...
CANADA LIFE 2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Equity Growth 1	277.80	...	...	...
Managed	357.30	376.20	+ 5.40	...
Property	240.10	252.80	- 0.10	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	254.90	268.40	+ 0.90	...
Equity	402.80	424.00	+ 1.30	...
Cash	223.10	234.90	+ 0.10	...
CLife Euro Mgd	409.60	431.20	+ 1.30	...
CLife Intl Fd	370.20	389.70	...	...
Managed Fund	766.50	806.80	+ 1.60	...
Property Fund	551.50	580.50	...	
Equity Fund	1001.90	1054.60	+ 0.80	..
Gilt Edged Fd	651.00	685.30	+ 4.00	...
Deposit Fund	342.10	360.10	+ 0.30	...
Investment Fd	430.30	451.80	+ 0.30	...
International	576.70	607.10	+ 1.90	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	162.10	170.70	...	..
Managed Fund	676.50	712.20	+ 5.00	..
Equity Fund	395.80	416.70	+ 3.10	..
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	306.20	322.40	- 0.70	...
Ruby	182.40	192.10	- 0.70	.
Emerald	152.30	160.30	+ 0.30	.
Equity	352.00	370.60	+ 0.90	...
Property	231.60	243.80	- 0.10	.
Gilt & Fixed Int	215.80	227.20	+ 0.60	...
Indexed Secs	177.30	186.70	+ 0.40	..
Cash	194.60	204.90	+ 0.20	..
Nth American	261.90	275.70	+ 4.70	...
Far East	323.90	341.00	- 0.50	...
International	250.20	263.40	+ 1.50	...
Special Sits	372.70	392.40	- 0.80	.
Intl Income	313.50	330.10	+ 1.30	.
American Inc	217.80	229.30	+ 2.20	...
European	350.20	368.70	+ 0.50	...
Japanese	131.90	138.90	+ 3.60	...
SE Asia	362.30	381.40	-10.30	...
With Profits Reg	174.70	183.90	+ 0.20	.
-do- Spec	174.70	183.90	+ 0.30	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	351.60	370.20	+ 1.00	...
Equity	426.00	448.50	+ 1.70	...
Property	211.70	222.90	- 0.10	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	273.50	287.90	+ 0.90	...
Index Linked	187.80	197.70	+ 0.50	...
Cash	263.30	277.20	+ 0.30	.
Nth American	324.20	341.30	+ 4.60	...
Far East Acc	305.80	322.00	- 3.00	...
International Acc	319.70	335.50	+ 2.20	...
Special Sits	558.70	588.20	+ 1.40	...
European Flex	496.40	522.60	+ 1.20	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000				
(Units) Key 1	223.51	...	- 2.16	...
-do- Pacemaker 1	331.33	...	- 2.30	...
-do- Cash	210.12	221.18	- 0.15	...
-do- Equity	576.92	607.28	- 0.37	...
-do- Fxd Int	378.39	398.31	- 0.16	...
-do- Managed	414.28	436.08	+ 0.60	...
-do- Property	280.65	295.42	- 2.27	...
(Pens) Cash Cap	211.33	222.46	+ 0.09	...
-do- Cash Inv	319.64	336.47	+ 0.36	...
-do- Equity Cap	£15.03	£15.82	- 0.89	...
-do- Equity Inv	£22.73	£23.93	+ 0.25	...
-do- Fixed Cap	410.74	432.37	- 0.94	...
-do- Fixed Inv	621.25	653.96	+ 1.35	...
-do- Index Cap	207.65	218.59	+ 0.51	...
-do- Index Inv	314.07	330.61	+ 0.99	...
-do- Mngd Cap	602.16	633.86	+ 0.35	...
-do- Mngd Inv	910.78	958.73	+ 1.16	...
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5) 1	778.40	...	-11.38	...
Var Ann (5) 1	98.32	...	- 0.66	...
Prime Managed	432.40	455.20	+ 1.50	...
Prime UK Equity	536.50	564.80	+ 2.50	...
Prime Int Equity	312.40	328.90	+ 0.20	...
Prime Property	252.70	266.10	+ 0.20	.
Prime Fxd Int	245.50	258.50	+ 1.30	...
Prime Index-Lnk	178.60	188.00	- 0.10	...
Prime Cash	214.00	225.30	+ 0.10	...
CONFEDERATION LIFE Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744840				
Managed Fund	1181.70	1243.80	- 4.80	...
Equity Fund	1724.80	1815.50	-10.10	..
CROWN FINANCIAL Crown House, Woking GU21 1XW 01483 715033				
Life Mangd Acc	636.70	669.90	+ 1.00	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	394.40	415.10	- 0.70	...
Life Equity Acc	909.00	956.00	+ 1.70	...
Life Money Acc	310.90	327.20	+ 0.30	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Life Inv Tst Acc	831.30	875.00	+ 0.30	...
Life Intl Acc	515.40	542.00	+ 0.50	...
Life High Inc Acc	855.60	899.80	+ 5.30	...
Life Property Acc	245.00	257.80	+ 0.30	...
Crown Brit Inv A	1416.60	...	...	...
Brewin Equity	778.80	819.70	+ 3.50	...
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL53 7LQ. 01242 221311				
Secure Fund	182.10	191.70	+ 0.10	...
Managed Fund	255.20	268.70	+ 0.20	...
-do- Series 2	169.00	177.90	+ 0.10	...
Adventurous Fd	210.90	222.00	+ 0.20	..
-do- Series 2	163.20	171.80	+ 0.20	...
Equity Mngd Fd	253.00	266.40	- 0.70	...
-do- Series 2	169.50	178.50	- 0.40	...
UK Pref Fxd Int	151.80	159.80	+ 0.30	...
UK Equity Fund	179.90	189.40	+ 0.60	...
Property Fund	121.50	127.90	- 0.20	...
Envrnmntl Opps	176.00	185.30	- 0.40	...
Euro Fund	199.50	210.00	- 1.70	...
North Amer Fd	221.60	233.30	+ 2.20	...
Oriental Ops	222.20	233.90	- 7.10	...
Japanese Fund	114.80	120.90	+ 2.20	..
Bri & West Life	129.50	136.40	+ 0.10	..
Bri & West Pen	148.90	156.80	+ 0.20	.
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND 60 St Mary Axe, London EC3. 0171 929 1111				
Eagle/Mid Uts	292.50	303.10	- 0.80	3.02
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed	325.90	343.10	- 0.30	..
UK Equity	437.10	460.20	- 1.10	...
Stewardship	380.30	400.40	+ 1.90	...
Overseas Equity	300.20	316.10	- 0.10	...
North American	167.80	176.70	+ 1.70	..
Pacific Basin	163.30	171.90	- 2.50	..
European	247.00	260.10	- 0.30	.
Property	190.70	200.80	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	251.80	265.10	+ 1.40	...
Index Linked	177.00	186.40	+ 0.50	...
Cash	208.00	219.00	+ 0.20	..
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	571.20	601.20	+ 2.20	...
Managed	733.20	771.70	- 0.30	...
Deposit	353.40	372.00	+ 0.40	...
Property	480.90	506.20	+ 0.60	.
American	471.90	496.70	+ 3.70	..
Australian	540.70	569.10	- 1.30	..
European	598.00	629.40	- 0.20	..
Income Acc	800.80	842.90	- 2.90	..
-do- Dist	466.80	491.30	- 2.30	4.67
International	325.50	342.60	- 0.10	..
Japan Smaller	451.80	475.50	+ 6.90	.
Singapore & Mal	372.80	392.40	-11.10	..
Smaller Cos	421.90	444.10	+ 1.20	.
Tokyo Fund	638.60	672.20	+ 7.30	.
UK Equity	621.10	653.70	- 1.00	...
CCM Vangd Mg	810.00	852.60	+ 5.80	
GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	313.90	330.50	- 2.40	...
GT Plan Wwide	506.20	532.90	- 1.10	
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	728.90	728.90	+ 0.60	.
-do- Inv A	728.80	767.20	+ 0.60	.
UK Equity	440.80	464.10	- 1.60	.
Gilt Plus	212.50	223.80	- 0.10	.
Managed	325.90	343.20	- 0.30	.
GENERAL ACCIDENT 2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	224.00	235.70	+ 0.20	...
Unitised Profit	145.80	153.50	+ 0.20	..
UK Equity	312.10	328.50	+ 0.20	..
Fixed Int	204.70	215.50	+ 0.30	..
Index-Linked	173.80	182.90	+ 0.50	..
Cash Deposit	180.10	189.50	+ 0.20	..
Property	183.00	192.90	+ 0.20	..
International	179.40	188.70	+ 0.40	..
American	184.40	194.00	+ 2.10	..
Japan	235.90	248.20	+ 4.20	...
Japan Smllr Cos	241.50	254.10	+ 4.30	..
European	193.70	200.80	- 0.20	..
Pacific Fund	279.50	294.20	- 7.60	..
Conv Life	137.10	144.20	+ 0.10	
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE Royal Exchange London EC3. 0171 283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	840.30	975.30	.	...
Managed Initial	492.00	517.90	- 1.50	..
-do- Acc	716.50	754.20	- 1.50	..
Equity Initial	755.10	794.90	- 0.50	..
-do- Acc	1099.60	1157.50	- 0.30	..
Fixed Int Initial	457.60	481.70	- 0.70	..
-do- Acc	666.40	701.50	- 0.70	..
Intl Initial	473.30	498.20	- 1.30	..
-do- Acc	689.30	725.50	- 1.50	..
Nth Amer Initial	209.50	220.50	- 1.70	..
-do- Acc	277.60	292.20	- 2.20	..
Pacific Initial	229.30	241.40	- 3.10	..
-do- Acc	301.10	316.90	- 4.00	..
Property Initial	180.50	190.00	...	..
-do- Acc	262.70	276.50		.
Index-Lnkd Initl	165.60	174.40		.
-do- Acc	219.50	231.10	+ 0.10	.
Deposit Initial	200.80	211.40	+ 0.10	..
-do- Acc	292.40	307.90	+ 0.20	.
Euro Initial	112.50	118.50	+ 0.10	.
-do- Acc	137.90	145.10	+ 0.10	.
HALIFAX LIFE LTD PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110				
Life Funds				
Foundation	26.87	28.28	+ 0.03	..
Balanced	27.18	28.61	+ 0.03	.
Opportunity	27.56	29.01	+ 0.02	.
Deposit	24.45	25.74	+ 0.02	...
Pension Funds				
Foundation	27.33	28.77	+ 0.09	.
Balanced	27.35	28.79	+ 0.02	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Opportunity	28.06	29.53	+ 0.09	...
Deposit	24.73	26.04	+ 0.04	...
HAMBRO ASSURED Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 840000				
Managed	179.80	189.20	+ 0.70	...
-do- Pens	223.50	235.20	+ 1.10	...
UK Equity	187.30	197.10	+ 0.50	...
-do- Pens	217.60	229.00	+ 0.60	...
International	154.10	162.20	+ 0.10	...
-do- Pens	168.40	177.20	+ 0.10	...
Deposit	144.00	151.50	+ 0.10	...
-do- Pens	172.50	181.50	+ 0.20	..
HENDERSON ADMINISTRATION 3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA 0171 638 5757				
UK Equity Fd	381.90	406.30	+ 0.30	.
North America	404.80	430.70	+ 3.10	...
Far East Fund	570.40	606.90	-10.90	...
Global Managed	491.90	523.40	- 0.50	...
Deposit Fund	237.20	249.70	+ 0.30	...
Prime Residential	139.50	146.90	...	
European Fund	282.30	300.40	- 1.10	...
Fixed Interest	64.90	69.10	+ 0.20	..
HILL SAMUEL LIFE NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon 0181 686 4355				
Security Fund	571.50	604.80	+ 1.20	...
British Fund	585.00	619.10	+ 2.10	...
International	583.30	617.20	- 0.60	...
Dollar Fund	463.10	490.10	+ 0.70	.
Capital Fund	523.20	553.70	+ 0.60	.
Income Fund	751.80	795.60	- 2.20	...
Property Series A	467.30	494.50	...	4.50
Property Units	772.50	811.20	...	...
Financial Fund	662.10	700.70	+ 1.30	...
Managed Ser A	582.90	616.90	+ 0.70	.
Managed Units	1046.90	1102.00	+ 1.20	.
High Yield Fund	687.90	728.00	+ 2.40	..
Money Series A	299.40	316.90	+ 0.30	.
Money Units	398.10	419.10	+ 0.40	
Equity Fund	666.50	705.30	+ 0.80	..
Fixed Interest	386.10	408.60	+ 0.30	.
Indexed Secs	196.10	207.60	- 0.20	.
European Fund	788.30	834.20	...	..
Natural Res	304.00	321.70	+ 3.00	.
Far East Fund	646.70	684.40	- 2.20	...
Smaller Cos	538.50	569.90	+ 0.20	...
Special Sits	525.20	555.80	+ 5.30	.
Man Currency	274.90	290.90	...	
Japanese Tech	310.10	328.20	+ 4.80	..
US Smaller Cos	332.50	351.90	+ 8.00	
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co Ltd				
Deposit	257.60	271.30	- 0.20	...
Financial Ser 1	53.20	57.00	- 1.00	
Fixed Interest	348.20	366.70	+ 2.90	..
Gold	82.90	87.30	+ 1.90	...
Managed	648.80	683.10	+ 1.00	.
Mngd Growth	206.50	217.50	+ 1.00	..
Mngd Opp	218.00	229.60	+ 0.90	.
Property	329.50	346.90		
Residential Prop	104.00	109.60	...	
TSB American	239.20	250.80	+ 0.60	.
TSB Brit Gwth	947.40	997.40	+ 4.20	..
TSB European	283.00	298.00	+ 0.70	
TSB Income	409.90	431.50	- 1.20	..
TSB Intl	447.70	471.30	- 0.20	..
TSB Intl Inc	309.90	326.30	+ 1.20	..
TSB Pacific	395.20	416.10	- 6.30	.
TSB Prem Inc	269.30	281.50	+ 1.20	
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF. 01727 48181				
Global Managed	616.70	649.20	+ 3.30	...
Global Property	310.00	326.30		
Global Fixed Int	542.50	571.10	+ 1.40	...
Global Equity	666.90	702.00	+ 3.90	.
Global Cash	221.70	233.40	+ 0.20	..
LAURENTIAN LIFE Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 7RZ 01452 371371				
Property	500.00	526.30	+ 0.50	.
Managed	445.70	469.10	- 1.80	..
American	477.40	502.50	+ 2.40	..
UK Equity Fd	489.70	515.40	+ 1.50	..
Japan	205.20	216.00	+ 5.80	..
Index-Lkd	194.20	204.40	+ 0.70	.
High Yield	920.70	969.10	- 2.90	...
Money	418.00	440.00	+ 0.40	...
International	414.80	436.60	+ 2.80	..
Henderson Active	216.60	228.00	- 0.30	.
Perpetual Active	348.90	367.20	+ 1.80	..
Growth Acc	697.10	733.70	+ 2.70	..
Gilt Edged	455.20	479.20	+ 1.10	..
European	166.10	174.80	+ 1.00	..
Far East	202.30	212.90	- 7.20	..
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE 2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 01273 524000				
B Soc Lnkd Init	134.80	141.90	...	...
-do- Acc	191.90	202.10	+ 0.20	..
Brit Opps Init	156.50	164.80	+ 1.40	.
-do- Acc	199.60	210.20	+ 1.60	..
Cash Initial	168.50	177.70	+ 0.10	..
-do- Acc	298.70	314.50	+ 0.20	..
Equity Initial	705.20	742.40	+ 5.90	..
-do- Acc	1247.80	1313.50	+10.30	..
Fixed Initial	357.00	375.80	+ 2.00	..
-do- Acc	631.70	665.00	+ 3.50	
Index-Lnkd Gilt	137.80	145.10	+ 1.10	...
-do- Acc	208.10	219.10	+ 1.60	.
Intl Initial	326.50	343.70	- 0.20	.
-do- Acc	568.80	598.80	- 0.40	...
Managed Initial	496.60	522.80	+ 2.50	.
-do- Acc	878.70	925.00	+ 4.50	.
Property Initial	218.00	229.50	+ 0.20	.
-do- Acc	385.90	406.20	+ 0.50	..
LINCOLN NATIONAL 1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB 0181 902 8876				
Equity Units 1	#137.67		- 0.36	...
Property Units 2	#26.66		- 0.47	.

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Bal Bd Exec Unit	70.05	73.74	+ 0.07	...
2nd Equity Acc	674.00	709.50	+ 2.00	..
2nd High Inc Ac	645.00	678.90	+ 2.70	..
2nd Property Acc	243.70	256.50	- 4.60	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	188.00	197.90	- 0.30	...
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	489.60	515.40	+ 0.30	...
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	242.30	254.90	+ 0.20	...
2nd Deposit Acc	294.30	309.80	+ 0.20	...
2nd Gilt Acc	325.00	342.10	- 0.90	...
2nd Amer Acc	830.80	874.50	- 7.70	...
2nd Intl Mny Acc	274.80	289.30	+ 4.60	...
2nd Index Acc	217.00	228.50	+ 1.20	...
2nd Far East Acc	433.00	455.80	- 1.60	...
2nd Global Acc	185.40	195.20	+ 0.30	...
2nd Euro Acc	170.70	179.60	+ 0.30	...
2nd Japan Acc	184.90	194.60	+ 2.30	...
2nd Int Cr Bd Acc	171.50	180.50	+ 0.30	...
2nd Cap Gilt Acc	135.60	142.70	+ 1.20	...
LONDON LIFE 100 Temple Street, Bristol BS1 6EA 0117 9279179				
Equity 1	945.70	.	- 2.10	..
Fixed Interest 1	453.60	.	- 5.10	...
Property 1	428.60	.	+ 0.50	...
Deposit 1	304.10	...	+ 0.30	...
Mixed 1	628.70	...	+ 0.90	..
Indexed Stock 1	224.80	...	...	...
International 1	307.20		+ 2.30	...
Equity A 1	219.30	...	- 0.50	...
Fixed Int A 1	201.00	.	+ 2.20	...
Property A 1	188.20	.	+ 0.20	...
Deposit A 1	178.50	.	+ 0.10	...
Mixed A 1	206.40	.	+ 0.30	...
Index Stock A 1	175.80		- 0.10	...
International A 1	191.70		+ 1.40	.
Equity P 1	779.70		- 3.20	..
Fixed Int P 1	604.50		+ 6.50	...
Property P 1	332.80		+ 0.50	...
Deposit P 1	361.60		+ 0.30	...
Mixed P 1	576.60		+ 0.30	...
Index Stock P 1	258.00		- 0.10	...
International P 1	359.20		+ 3.10	.
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURANCE Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 01392 282456				
Inv Trust Cap 1	589.80		+ 0.90	..
-do- Acc 1	1029.20		+ 1.70	..
Property Cap 1	145.00	..		..
-do- Acc 1	242.70		+ 0.10	..
Fxd Interest Cap 1	198.20		+ 0.50	...
-do- Acc 1	333.90		+ 1.20	...
Equity Cap 1	337.50		+ 1.20	.
-do- Acc 1	576.90		+ 2.50	..
Internatl Cap 1	234.20		+ 1.10	..
-do- Acc 1	396.30		+ 2.10	..
Gtd Deposit Cap 1	163.40		...	...
-do- Acc 1	272.40		+ 0.20	7.20
Flexible Cap 1	355.50		+ 1.20	.
-do- Acc 1	616.90		+ 2.60	
Moneymaker Fd 1	468.70		+ 1.90	..
Capital Growth 1	1875.80		+ 8.90	..
M & G Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 01245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	479.40	507.40	+ 8.60	...
Amer Rec Bond	529.90	556.50	+ 4.30	...
Am Smlr Cos Bd	256.60	269.60	+ 3.40	...
Australasia Bd	227.90	239.40	- 1.80	...
Commodity Bond	328.60	345.30	+ 1.30	...
Deposit Bond Acc	374.30	393.00	+ 0.30	...
Equity Bond Acc	1629.00	1710.60	- 6.10	..
European Bd Acc	406.50	427.00	- 2.40	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	796.90	836.80	-24.40	...
Far East Bd Acc	302.90	318.20	- 2.50	...
Gilt Bond Acc	464.00	487.30	+ 1.20	...
Gold Bond Acc	159.70	167.70	+ 5.50	...
High Yield Bond	350.50	368.20	- 3.60	...
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	220.10	231.20	+ 1.40	...
International Bd	791.20	830.80	+ 5.50	...
Japan Bond Acc	239.80	251.90	+ 7.30	...
Japan Sm Cos Ac	233.30	245.10	+10.90	...
Managed Bonds	936.40	983.40	- 1.10	...
Prop Bond Acc	349.40	366.90	- 1.30	...
Rec Bond Acc	831.40	873.10	- 1.70	..
MGM ASSURANCE MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 01903 204631				
UK Equity	240.60	253.30	- 0.40	...
UK Equity Acc	350.60	369.10	- 0.40	...
Special Sits	98.10	103.30	- 0.10	..
Special Sits Acc	143.10	150.70	...	...
North American	201.70	212.40	+ 1.10	..
N American Acc	294.00	309.50	+ 1.70	..
Pacific Basin	353.10	371.70	- 2.20	..
Pacific Basin Acc	514.70	541.80	- 3.00	..
Fixed Interest	289.70	305.00	+ 0.30	..
Fixed Interest Acc	422.80	445.10	+ 0.80	..
Property	178.60	188.00	...	...
Property Acc	260.70	274.50	+ 0.30	..
Deposit	153.30	161.40	+ 0.10	..
Deposit Acc	223.80	235.60	+ 0.20	..
Managed	272.40	286.80	+ 0.10	..
Managed Acc	366.00	385.30	+ 0.10	..
MERCHANT INVESTORS St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead Bristol BS1 2NH 0117 9266 366				
Property	428.70	451.20	+ 0.30	...
UK Equity	392.70	413.30	+ 2.50	.
Gilt Edged	603.50	635.20	+ 0.60	..
Interest Fund	403.80	425.00	+ 0.50	.
Managed Fd	519.20	546.50	...	
Intl Equity	618.90	651.40	- 1.40	...
North American	234.00	246.30	+ 0.20	..
Far East	443.40	466.70	- 5.10	...
Intl Currency	263.70	277.50	+ 0.20	..
NPI 48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH 0171 623 4200				
Managed	522.10	549.50	+ 1.00	...
UK Equity	673.70	709.10	+ 3.70	.
Overseas Equity	505.90	532.50	- 1.10	
Americas	458.20	482.30	- 0.40	...
Far East	552.10	581.10	- 0.80	..
Property	218.50	230.00	+ 0.30	..
Fixed Interest	412.80	434.50	+ 0.80	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Indexed Gilt	244.90	257.70	+ 0.70	...
Deposit	224.80	236.60	+ 0.30	...
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP 01603 622200				
Managed Fund	1545.10	1626.40	- 7.10	...
Equity Fund	3417.10	3596.90	+16.60	...
Property Fd	588.70	619.70	- 1.10	...
Fixed Int Fd	635.00	668.40	+ 0.10	..
Deposit Fund	363.40	382.50	+ 0.30	..
Intl Fund	259.60	273.30	+ 1.30	...
OLD MUTUAL 2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	318.60	336.10	+ 0.90	...
Fxd Interest Acc	254.30	268.30	+ 0.10	...
International Acc	257.50	271.70	- 1.70	...
Managed Acc	228.90	241.50	- 0.40	...
Property Acc	219.30	231.40	+ 0.20	...
Money Acc	160.50	169.40	+ 0.20	...
Spec Mkt Acc	215.10	226.90	- 4.00	...
Japan Equity Acc	112.10	118.30	+ 1.10	...
N Amer Acc	169.00	178.30	+ 3.30	...
Pacific Acc	148.80	157.00	- 2.20	...
European Acc	185.60	195.80	- 1.80	...
PEARL ASSURANCE The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 01733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	149.10	157.00	+ 0.10	
Prop Acc (Gross)	334.40	352.00	+ 0.30	...
Inv Equity	1288.50	1356.40	- 7.40	..
Inv Managed	904.40	952.00	- 2.20	...
Ret Managed	1024.30	1078.30	- 3.10	...
PROVIDENT MUTUAL Six Hills Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2ST 01438 732000				
Managed Ord	508.60	535.40	- 0.20	...
Managed Initial	332.70	350.20	- 0.40	...
Equity Ord	787.50	828.90	- 0.70	...
Equity Init	515.20	542.30	- 0.80	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	211.40	222.50	+ 0.70	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	144.40	152.00	+ 0.30	...
Oseas Equity Ord	394.60	415.40	- 0.10	...
Oseas Equity Init	258.10	271.70	- 0.30	...
Property Ord	279.10	293.80	+ 0.20	...
Property Init	182.60	192.20	+ 0.10	...
Fixed Int Ord	298.50	314.20	+ 0.50	...
Fixed Int Init	195.30	205.60	+ 0.20	...
Deposit Ord	214.20	225.50	+ 0.20	...
Deposit Initial	140.10	147.50	...	...
PRUDENTIAL Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 0171 405 9222				
Managed	373.70	389.30	+ 0.80	...
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS 1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP 0171 548 3278				
Managed Fund	868.70	914.50	+ 1.30	..
Equity Fund	1676.80	1765.10	+ 4.00	..
Intl Fund	672.60	708.00	+ 1.40	..
Fixed Interest	599.50	631.10	+ 0.90	..
Property Fund	492.40	518.40	...	
Cash Fund	378.10	398.00	+ 0.50	..
Pacific Basin	367.20	386.60	- 3.10	..
N American Fd	306.10	322.30	+ 2.30	..
Euro Fund	295.60	311.20	- 0.10	..
Balanced Fund	171.00	180.00	- 1.30	..
Strategic Fund	181.80	191.40	- 1.70	..
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 01733 390000				
Mult Grow (45) 1	814.80		...	
-do- Acc	475.80	500.80	...	
Op Prop	483.90	509.30	- 0.20	..
Op Equity	1071.50	1127.80	- 2.60	..
Op High Yield	628.50	661.50	+ 3.00	..
Op Managed	876.50	922.60	+ 2.60	..
Op Deposit	407.60	429	+ 0.30	..
Inc Gth	327.80	345	+ 0.40	..
Japan Smlr	247.60	260.60	+11.60	..
Managed Gth	287.90	303	+ 0.90	..
Gilt	85.60	90	+ 0.30	..
British	393.40	414	+ 0.60	..
Global Bond	123.90	130.40	+ 1.00	..
Global Inc & Gth	180.30	189.70	+ 0.70	..
Gold Share	84	88.40	+ 3.70	..
High Income	318.90	335.60	- 0.80	..
Income	473.50	498.40	+ 2.40	..
Japan	415.10	436.90	+11.50	.
UK Smlr Cos	379.60	399.50	+ 8.90	..
Mngd Growth	493	518.90	+ 0.30	..
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 0151 239 3000				
Royal Shield Fd	1049.00	1110.00	+ 6.20	..
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	414.60	436.40	+ 0.90	...
Equity Fund	597.40	629.80	- 0.10	..
Property Fund	333.30	350.80	- 0.10	..
International	508.00	534.70	+ 2.10	..
Pacific Basin	257.80	271.30	- 0.50	..
United States	304.10	320.10	+ 1.60	..
Gilt Fund	390.40	410.90	+ 0.90	..
SAVE & PROSPER 16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 01708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	817.70	865.30	+ 2.00	2.40
Deposit Fund (2)	388.70	411.40	+ 0.30	7.07
Gilt Fund	553.60	585.90	+ 1.80	7.96
Global Equity Fd	247.00	261.40	+ 0.20	.
Property Fund (4b)	116.30	123.10	.	7.11
AG Bond Fund	151.60	160.50	- 0.80	...
SCOTTISH AMICABLE 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 0141 248 2323				
Equity	651.10	685.40	+ 5.80	.
Fixed Interest	394.40	415.20	+ 0.10	..
Index-Linked	206.90	217.90	+ 1.70	...
International	483.80	509.30	+ 4.30	..
Property	305.60	321.70	- 0.40	..

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Cash	238.80	251.40	+ 0.30	...
Managed	506.10	532.80	+ 4.00	...
Cap Greed Bd	125.80	132.50	+ 1.00	...
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE 28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 0131 556 9101				
Cash	188.211	198.116	+ 0.16	...
Index-Linked	171.40	180.50	+ 0.80	...
Fixed Interest	189.40	199.40	+ 3.10	...
Mixed	276.70	291.30	+ 1.30	...
UK Equity	265.40	279.50	+ 1.80	...
International	271.40	285.80	- 0.20	...
American	298.50	314.40	+ 1.80	...
Japan	227.00	239.10	+ 5.60	...
European	284.30	299.30	- 0.90	...
Pacific	341.00	359.00	- 9.10	...
Technology	459.70	484.00	+ 2.80	...
Frgn Bd/Crrcy	247.90	261.00	+ 2.20	...
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 0131 225 2211				
Property	224.40	236.30	+ 0.30	...
UK Equity	388.40	409.00	+ 1.40	...
American	285.70	300.90	+ 2.50	...
Pacific	343.80	362.00	- 0.40	...
European	508.60	535.50	+ 0.60	...
International	328.20	345.50	+ 0.60	...
Fixed Interest	249.60	262.80	+ 0.60	...
Index Linked	207.60	218.60	+ 0.20	...
Deposit	202.20	213.00	+ 0.20	...
Managed	307.30	323.60	+ 0.80	...
Worldwide	125.70	132.40	+ 0.20	...
Pen Worldwide	134.20	141.40	- 0.30	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE 109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 0141 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	1817.70	1873.90	...	...
Safety Fund	250.80	264.00	+ 0.20	...
Growth Fund	249.30	262.50	...	...
Opportunity Fd	250.10	263.30	+ 0.40	...
Cash Fund	180.50	190.00	+ 0.10	...
European Fund	368.90	388.40	- 0.10	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	211.90	223.10	- 1.00	...
Index-Linked Fd	190.60	200.70	- 0.10	...
International Fd	300.00	315.80	- 1.00	...
North American	269.50	283.70	+ 2.10	...
Property Fund	129.00	135.90	- 0.10	...
UK Equity	269.10	283.30	+ 0.40	...
UK Smaller	264.20	278.20	- 0.90	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT 6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 0131 556 9181				
Mixed	288.90	304.20	+ 0.30	...
Equity	308.40	324.70	+ 0.10	...
International	278.20	292.90	- 0.70	...
Property	233.40	245.80	...	...
Fixed Interest	229.40	241.60	+ 0.10	..
Index Linked	190.20	200.30	+ 0.60	..
Cash	193.00	203.30	+ 0.20	...
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	861.10	916.10	+ 0.90	...
Cash Fund	351.20	370.10	+ 0.40	...
Property Fund	299.50	315.70	+ 0.40	...
Equity Fund	960.60	1022.00	+ 1.20	..
Fxd Interest Fund	488.30	514.60	+ 1.90	..
International	399.20	424.70	+ 0.90	..
High Income	778.70	828.50	- 0.10	..
Far East	557.70	593.40	- 9.90	..
North American	634.10	674.60	+ 9.00	..
Special Sits	705.30	750.40	- 1.00	..
Technology	930.20	989.60	+10.20	...
Extra Income Fd	424.80	452.00	+ 0.40	..
Gilt Fund	509.80	542.40	+ 2.40	..
European	158.70	168.90	...	.
Adventurous Mg	241.20	253.90	- 0.20	..
Secure Mgd	156.90	165.40	+ 0.30	..
Equity Inc Dist	125.50	132.30	+ 0.80	4.45
Managed Dist	114.50	120.70	+ 0.50	5.03
SCOTTISH WIDOWS PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 0131 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	1049.70	1049.70	+ 6.50	...
Inv Pol 2	961.70	1001.90	+ 6.20	...
Inv Pol 3	905.30	953.00	+ 5.90	...
Inv Cash	327.20	344.60	+ 0.50	...
Mixed Fund	492.10	518.20	+ 1.30	...
Equity Fund	591.00	622.30	+ 3.60	...
Property Fund	245.30	258.30	+ 0.20	...
International Fd	532.40	560.60	- 1.60	...
Fixed Interest Fd	400.50	421.70	+ 1.40	...
Indexed Stock Fd	208.90	220.00	+ 0.70	...
Cash Fund	236.60	249.20	+ 0.20	...
SKANDIA LIFE Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 01703 334411				
Managed Acc	410.90	432.50	+ 1.80	...
Equity Acc	500.60	526.90	+ 1.80	...
International Acc	350.30	368.70	+ 0.70	...
Property	231.80	243.90	+ 0.20	...
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO 3 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ 0131 225 2552				
Cash	278.20	292.90	+ 0.30	...
Equity	1115.00	1173.70	+ 5.80	...
European	184.30	194.10	- 0.70	...
Far East	171.70	180.80	- 0.70	...
Fixed Interest	423.90	446.30	- 1.30	...
Index Linked	221.40	233.10	- 0.50	...
International	652.70	687.10	- 1.20	...
Managed	766.40	806.80	+ 1.90	...
Nth American	168.70	177.60	+ 1.20	...
Property	370.80	390.40	+ 0.50	...
Pensions				
Cash	438.40	461.50	+ 0.50	...
Equity	1666.20	1753.90	+12.20	...
European	224.00	235.80	- 0.40	...
Far East	137.20	144.50	- 0.30	...
Fixed Interest	595.00	627.00	- 1.20	...
Index Linked	309.70	326.10	- 0.60	...
International	933.10	982.50	+ 0.10	...
Managed	1107.20	1165.50	+ 4.30	...
Nth American	215.50	226.90	+ 2.10	...
Property	516.60	543.80	+ 2.10	..
Stock Exchange	249.80	263.00	+ 1.20	.

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
SUN ALLIANCE St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex 01403 232323				
Managed Fund	727.50	765.80	+ 3.30	...
Equity Fund	966.80	1017.70	+ 5.70	...
Fixed Interest Fd	435.50	458.50	+ 0.60	...
Index-Linked Fd	336.10	353.80	+ 0.30	...
Property Fund	531.40	559.60	+ 0.60	...
International Fd	701.90	738.90	+ 3.30	...
N American Fd	298.00	313.70	- 3.80	...
Far East Fund	227.00	239.00	- 4.60	...
Deposit Fund	310.00	326.40	+ 0.20	...
International Bd 1	#95.38	...	+ 1.17	...
Worldwide Bond	170.00	179.00	+ 1.10	...
European	179.30	188.80	- 0.20	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	726.10	764.40	+ 5.30	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	512.10	539.30	...	...
Property Growth				
Property Fund 1	616.80	...	+ 0.70	...
-do- Acc 1	573.50	...	+ 0.60	...
Agricultural Fd 1	854.30	...	+ 0.70	...
-do- Acc 1	819.00	...	+ 0.60	...
Abbey Nat Fd 1	459.10	...	+ 0.40	...
Abbey Nat Acc 1	483.70	...	+ 0.40	...
Investment Fd 1	388.40	...	+ 1.80	...
Investment (A) 1	372.30	...	+ 1.70	...
Equity 1	1413.00	...	+ 8.00	...
Equity Acc 1	1330.00	...	+ 7.50	...
Money Fund 1	496.50	...	+ 0.50	...
-do- Acc 1	473.60	...	+ 0.40	...
Actuarial Fd 1	640.40	...	+ 2.80	...
Gilt-Edged Fd 1	408.80	...	+ 0.50	...
-do- Acc 1	408.80	...	+ 0.50	...
Retire Annuity 1	1267.50	...	...	...
Immed Annuity 1	307.50	...	...	...
Bldg Soc Life 1	235.40	...	+ 0.20	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 01256 841414				
Growth Acc 1	1586.00	...	+ 0.20	...
Managed Acc 1	898.60	...	+ 7.90	...
Equity Account 1	1307.60	...	+ 6.50	...
Mngd Fund Acc	411.50	433.20	+ 3.80	...
Equity Fund Acc	568.60	598.50	+ 2.90	...
Prop Fund Acc	264.60	278.60	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	326.60	343.80	+ 4.10	...
Money Fund Acc	229.30	241.40	+ 0.20	...
Indx-Lnk Scs Ac	214.60	225.90	+ 1.20	...
Pers Pens Acct	2026.70	...	...	...
Pens Mngd Acct	943.60	993.20	- 2.00	...
Pens Guarantee	271.70	286.00	+ 0.40	...
Pens Equity	364.90	384.20	- 3.30	...
Pens Property	309.30	325.60	- 0.80	...
Pens Fixed Int	308.30	324.60	- 4.30	...
Pens Intl	257.50	271.00	+ 0.80	...
Pens Money	248.50	261.60	+ 0.30	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	207.30	218.20	+ 1.60	...
SUN LIFE UNIT St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0117 9426911				
Managed Acc	950.20	1000.30	- 0.10	...
Property Acc	307.60	323.80	- 1.40	...
Equity Acc	1579.40	1662.60	- 1.00	...
Fixed Int Acc	426.50	449.00	- 0.60	...
Cash Acc	321.50	338.50	+ 0.30	...
Amer Equity Acc	438.80	461.90	+ 4.40	...
Japan Acc	288.50	303.70	+ 4.50	...
Pacific Acc	365.60	384.90	- 3.80	...
Far Eastern Acc	827.00	870.60	- 3.00	...
International Acc	624.40	657.30	+ 4.60	...
Distribution Fund	288.90	304.20	+ 1.60	5.92
European	202.90	213.60	+ 0.40	...
Defrd Dist	180.00	189.50	- 0.20	...
TSB LIFE LTD Charlton Place, Andover, Hants SP10 1RE 01264 345678				
Managed Fund	304.60	320.70	+ 0.80	...
Property Fund	231.70	244.00	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest Fd	236.90	249.50	+ 0.60	...
Money Fund	207.90	219.00	+ 0.20	...
Equity Fund	394.90	415.70	+ 0.80	...
WINDSOR LIFE Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 01952 292929				
Managed Bond	750.20	790.50	+ 6.20	...
Money Fund	329.60	346.90	...	...
Equity Fund	678.80	714.50	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Interest	296.50	312.10	+ 2.60	...
Property Fund	332.90	350.40	...	...
Gresham Framlington				
American & Gnrl	658.60	694.00	+ 6.30	...
Income	792.80	835.40	+ 0.10	...
International Gth	671.20	707.40	+ 2.30	...
Capital Fund	674.50	710.70	+ 0.50	...
Recovery Fund	647.40	682.20	- 2.20	...
Japan & General	268.80	283.20	+ 6.40	...
Formerly AEtna				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	18.73	19.72	...	...
Bear	21.13	22.24	+ 0.10	...
Owl	22.83	24.03	+ 0.06	...
Bull	19.44	20.46	+ 0.14	...
Stag	20.23	21.29	+ 0.23	...
Gilt Edged	19.79	20.83	+ 0.14	...
Deposit	16.33	17.19	..	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	25.77	27.13	...	...
Bear	29.68	31.24	+ 0.15	...
Owl	31.53	33.19	+ 0.10	...
Bull	25.44	26.78	+ 0.21	...
Stag	25.87	27.23	+ 0.30	...
Gilt Edged	25.23	26.56	+ 0.20	.
Deposit	21.38	22.50	...	...
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund	633.51	...	+ 4.79	...
1982 Series				
UK Equity	379.17	399.13	+ 2.72	...
N Amer Equity	329.20	346.53	+ 9.61	...
Far East Equity	366.74	386.04	+ 0.88	...
Fixed	312.99	329.46	+ 2.13	...
Cash Deposit	212.52	223.71	+ 0.03	...
Property	142.75	150.26	+ 1.23	...
Special Opp	380.57	400.60	+ 4.44	...
Managed	334.30	351.89	+ 2.64	...
Index-Linked Fd	200.00	210.53	+ 1.35	...

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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Policyholders need answers in the GA takeover of Provident Mutual

From Mr A. S. B. Buss

Sir, The General Accident takeover of Provident Mutual appears, on the face of it, to be presented as something that must happen because Provident Mutual is unable to write new business profitably.

Provident Mutual has taken on very little new with-profits business in the past ten years, and indeed has taken reasonably substantial amounts of unit-linked business, to the extent that more than half of the funds they manage are unit-linked.

It would seem that almost every policyholder has a vote whether their policy is with-profits or unit-linked.

Is it fair that only with-profits policyholders are to be rewarded? Is it fair that unit-linked policyholders are only promised no increase in charges other than indexation when over half such policies will suffer these increases?

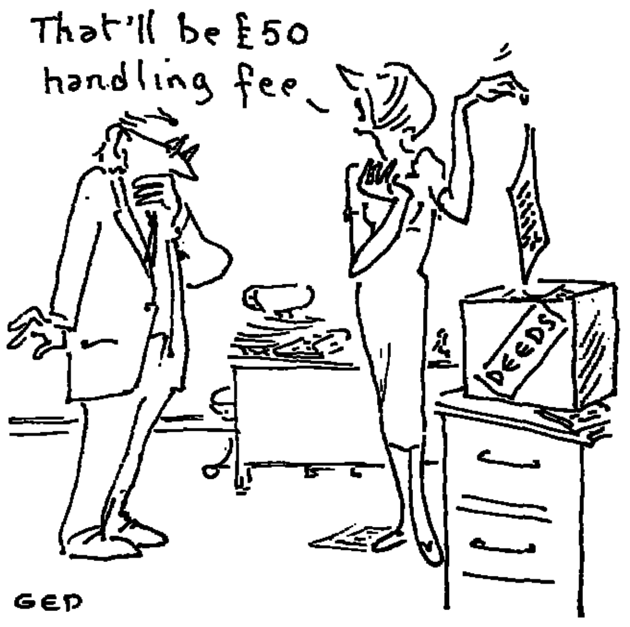
Why has Provident Mutual been unable to conduct new business profitably? Should two directors be paid off with a reward of £500,000 and the ex-chief executive be given a plum job with General Accident?

The planning of this takeover is so far down the road that it must have been under way for months; indeed the directors would have been fully aware of it at the time of the last annual general meeting. Why did they not make any mention of it when being questioned on relevant topics such as Provident Mutual's financial strength?

Until these questions are answered, all policyholders must vote against the takeover and hold out for a fairer deal, and not allow themselves to be trampled into accepting by the directors rushing for the exit with their booty.

Yours faithfully,

A .S .B. BASS,
Towell Farm,
Beaford,
Devon.



Charge seems to be a deed too far

From Mr I. Mattin

Sir, The Abbey National is charging me £50 "deeds' handling fee" on redemption of my mortgage. This is for looking after the deeds during the life of the mortgage, which is what it expected to do, wanted to do, and insisted on doing at the onset of the mortgage. It was not suggested that my solicitor might hold them.

The charges the Abbey makes for transfer of equity or letting, are understandable as extra work is involved. The charge for holding the deeds is unwarranted and unfair.

And while I am trying to get the management to remove this charge, interest is being added to the account.

Yours sincerely,

IVAN MATTIN,
The Brindles,
Briscoe Road,
Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire.

BID ALERT

Target	Bidder	Value £m	Terms	Launch date	Closing date
Cntry Casuls	Ciro	27	140p per CC share	12/10	11/12
Vistec	Lynx	25.4	1 new Lynx per 2.914 Vistec shares	29/9	16/11
Seeboard	CSW	1,600	635p cash/split share	6/11	na
Engl.Nat.Inv.	Pan-Caribbean	na	na	8/11	29/11
Nrthmbrn Wtr	Lyonnaise	na	In discussions	na	na
S.Wales Elec	Welsh Water	na	In discussions	na	na

Minors' interest in a society as great as adults

From Mr S. Ward

Sir, The letter from Clare Riley, the student, (Weekend Money Letters, November 4) raises a very serious concern about the current trend in building society takeovers.

The payment of cash bonuses in the event of a transfer of society ownership is supposed to represent compensation for members in respect of their share of the society's assets, business and goodwill. Cash payouts are not supposed simply to be a bribe for an affirmative vote.

Where minors such as Miss Riley hold share accounts in building societies, they have as great an interest in the society and its assets as adult shareholders. Observers would be forgiven for thinking, however, that National & Provincial has structured its scale of payouts to exclude minors from payment just because they don't have votes to buy off.

That National & Provincial is behaving cyncially seems irrefutable.

Perhaps one of the society's disinherited young savers should approach the courts to test whether they might also be acting unlawfully in denying youngsters their share of the spoils.

Yours faithfully,

SELWYN WARD,
2 Newstead Avenue,
Orpington,
Kent.

Ernie's elbow needs a nudge

From Ms R. Kaye

Sir, The figures given on Premium Bond prizes in your piece (Weekend Money, November 4) do not tally with my experience since 1984.

I purchased £1,000 of Premium Bonds in June 1984 and have won only two £50 prizes since then.

In the interim, I purchased a further £5,000 worth of Premium Bonds, which won nothing, so in anguish I sold these.

I still have the £1,000 lot and hope your article will jog Ernie's elbow in my favour.

Yours sincerely,

RENEE KAYE,
8 Broadfield Heights,
Broadfields Avenue,
Edgware,
Middlesex.

Eviction order

From Ms A. Jones

Sir, I read with interest your feature on the merits of renting as against buying property (Weekend Money, October 28).

One point that your article failed to make, however, is that those who rent are liable to find themselves subject to eviction if their landlord does not keep up his mortgage payments where a property is subject to a mortgage.

Yours faithfully,

ANN JONES,
7 Bourne Cottages,
The Street,
Bishopsbourne,
Canterbury,
Kent.

Letters or information for Weekend Money may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5082. Letters should include a daytime telephone number wherever possible. *The Times* regrets it cannot always give individual replies or advice and asks that original documents are not sent in. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

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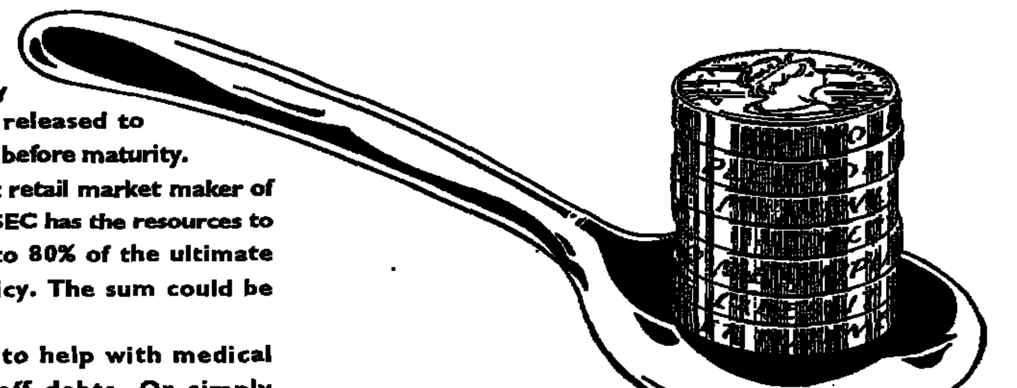
SuTimes 11/11/95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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD 01895 259 783				
Groland Amer	187.50	198.40†	+ 1.90	0.22
Groland Equity	362.30	378.90	− 0.80	2.15
Groland Euro	232.40	245.00	− 3.60	1.25
Groland Exp Bal	121.70	128.10	+ 1.10	1.11
Groland Gilt	74.90	77.21	+ 0.01	5.20
Groland Japan	164.40	173.90†	+ 2.80	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS 01203 553 231				
General Acc	596.60	634.70	+ 4.30	2.71
General Inc	512.40	545.20	+ 3.40	2.71
UK Growth Acc	404.10	429.90†	+ 3.00	2.83
UK Growth Inc	269.20	286.40†	+ 1.90	2.93
Higher Inc Acc	748.50	798.30†	+ 8.80	4.18
Higher Inc Inc	416.70	443.30†	+ 4.70	4.18
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	201.10	212.30	+ 0.60	5.68
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	92.44	97.64	− 0.30	5.68
Nth America	332.90	354.20†	+ 7.40	
Europe	309.10	328.90	+ 1.10	0.94
Brit Excell	80.92	86.08†	− 0.41	3.03
Brit Fndmtls Acc	109.60	116.60		4.79
Brit Fndmtls Inc	76.69	81.59	+ 0.01	4.79
Global Opps	97.81	97.47†	− 0.07	0.33
Balanced Acc	58.43	62.17†	− 0.33	3.01
Balanced Inc	55.93	59.50†	+ 0.23	3.01
Japan Acc	44.14	46.96†	− 4.25	
Pac Basin Acc	357.70	380.60†	− 9.30	1.02
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS 0345 717 373				
High Income				
Gilts & Fixed Int	129.90	137.80	..	7.26
High Inc Equity	173.10	185.10†	− 0.90	4.35
Worldwide Bond	284.30	301.50†	+ 1.60	4.64
Capital Growth				
American Growth	330.30	353.30	+ 0.40	0.36
Asian Pacific	291.90	312.20	− 9.10	.
Assets & Earnings	284.00	302.10†	− 2.10	2.83
Comdty & Energy	110.20	117.60	+ 5.40	0.11
Euro Capitol Inc	146.40	156.60	+ 0.90	0.62
-do- Accum	157.00	167.90	+ 0.90	0.61
General	256.80	273.20	− 0.60	3.05
Japan	114.70	122.70	− 2.60	
Mastertrust	147.30	157.50	− 0.30	1.50
UC Emerging Cos	174.30	185.40	+ 3.20	
Ethical	71.68	76.26	− 0.09	2.61
International	120.60	128.30	− 0.30	0.71
Dividend & Growth	65.07	69.22	− 0.22	4.06
Global Gwth & Sec	69.74	74.47	+ 0.07	2.86
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	1957.00	2034.00	− 7.00	.
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	52.23	54.24†	+ 0.38	0.57
Cash	50.44	50.44	+ 0.05	5.80
Emerging Mkts	61.76	65.45	− 2.70	0.05
European	126.30	132.10	− 0.10	
Exempt	1005.30	1078.70†	− 1.40	1.73
Extra Income #	48.81	52.18	− 0.08	6.51
Far East Emg Ecn	111.60	118.50	− 2.50	0.53
Fixed Interest #	22.93	24.07†	+ 0.06	9.76
Fund Inv Tst	163.20	171.80†	− 0.10	9.06
Japan	181.00	189.70	− 5.30	
Latin American	43.74	45.90	− 1.99	1.06
Pacific	75.37	79.70	− 1.08	0.33
Property Share	60.64	63.86	− 0.21	2.75
UK Emerging Cos	69.16	72.91	− 0.21	1.70
UK Growth	47.62	50.45†	+ 0.22	2.33
Abtr World Port #	76.01	77.47†	− 0.02	2.12
Ethical	70.59	74.10	+ 0.44	2.38
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.75	50.75	+ 0.13	7.40
AEGON UNIT TRUSTS LTD 0131 549 3232				
Select Portfolio	92.96	98.89†	− 1.04	
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0171 256 5668				
Resort Property	97.41	103.90		5.28

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	90.87	97.05	+ 0.33	2.84
American Portfolio	108.06	112.66	+ 0.97	0.99
European Portfolio	108.05	115.36†	− 2.08	0.57
High Income	50.81	50.92†	+ 0.04	8.00
Japanese Portfolio	64.66	68.74	+ 1.28	
Pacific Portfolio	136.93	147.24	− 2.88	1.49
UK Inc & Growth	83.67	89.72†	+ 0.90	3.04
Unity & Bond	57.11	57.77	+ 0.91	6.72
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG 0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	706.60	717.28	− 0.58	4.43
Fxd In Sec	155.85	156.47	+ 1.71	9.20
COIF CHARITY FUNDS 0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	698.66	709.22	+ 4.09	4.50
Investment Acc	130.76	131.23	+ 17.70	
Fixed Int Inc	126.56	127.06	+ 1.31	9.05
Fixed Int Acc	210.57	211.41	− 2.16	.
CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD 0171 837 7667				
Intl Growth	117.35	129.72	..	.
UK Income	110.56	120.00	.	6.33
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD 0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	87.86	92.75†	+ 0.83	2.62
Beck Bio-Tech	37.48	41.21	+ 1.06	
Acorn Ethical Tst	159.17	167.14	+ 1.71	0.74
City Fin Assets	73.08	76.74†	− 0.21	2.12
City Fin America	95.73	100.53	− 1.56	
City Fin Intl	83.07	87.22†	+ 0.84	1.36
City Fin Japan	141.22	148.29	− 2.54	
Friars Hse Cap	278.89	301.55	+ 0.27	2.42
Friars Hse Inc	190.56	206.62†	− 2.74	4.61
Buckley Wrld Grth	132.62	140.79	+ 0.74	
Falcon Cap Gth	138.61	145.91†	+ 0.36	.
Ravenspoint Intl	146.63	154.56†	− 0.10	..
J Sid Inc/Gth Inc	56.58	59.30	+ 1.17	.2
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	53.98	57.27	− 0.59	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD 0800 373 393				
American Gwth	73.98	79.12	+ 0.77	
Asia Mngd Gwth	38.81	42.05	− 0.08	0.60
Dragon Growth	63.94	68.38	− 2.33	1.04
Equity High Inc	86.02	92.17	+ 0.43	4.15
-do- Accum	119.43	127.97	+ 0.59	4.15
Extra Income Inc	26.28	27.88†	− 0.08	7.49
Extra Income Acc	27.35	28.79	+ 0.09	7.49
European Gwth	55.38	58.91	+ 0.01	1.25
Evergreen	27.34	29.34	+ 0.45	
General Equity	90.48	96.00	+ 0.23	3.10
Japan Growth	48.50	51.87	+ 1.79	
Pedigree Gwth	55.05	58.10	+ 0.27	2.92
Pac Sm Cos Inc	32.40	34.47†	− 0.04	1.72
-do- Accum	34.12	36.30	+ 0.04	1.72
Retirement Inc #	26.45	28.14	− 0.11	5.96
Special Sits	41.22	43.85	+ 0.26	2.22
UK & Overseas	52.17	55.50	− 0.07	1.16
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD 01634 888 000				
Capital	72.68	75.59	− 0.03	2.01
Balanced	63.70	66.25	− 0.01	4.24
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD 0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	164.78	175.30†	− 0.19	4.99
Fixed & Convertible	39.63	42.16†	− 0.04	6.89
Monthly Inc Plus	48.58	51.68	+ 0.12	8.67
Preference Share	45.53	48.44†		8.05
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	125.49	133.50†	+ 0.36	6.09
Managed Fund	70.80	75.32†	+ 0.09	3.13
UK Emerg Funds				
Smaller Cos	41.87	44.54	+ 0.15	1.82
-do- Accum	48.74	51.85	+ 0.17	1.82
UK & General	85.19	90.63†	+ 0.29	2.82

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	71.07	75.75	+ 1.29	
-do- Accum	71.07	75.75	+ 1.29	.
Amer Smlr Cos	595.40	636.80	+ 7.30	...
-do- Accum	608.20	650.50	+ 7.40	.
Capital Tst	334.80	358.10†	+ 0.50	1.50
-do- Accum	486.30	517.10†	+ 0.70	1.50
Conti Smlr Cos	58.25	62.06	− 0.09	0.50
-do- Accum	61.45	65.52	− 0.10	0.50
Convertible	131.20	139.50	.	5.31
-do- Accum	270.20	287.50	− 0.20	5.31
Emerging Markets	62.08	66.32	− 1.74	
-do- Accum	62.14	66.38	− 1.73	
European	124.90	132.40	− 0.10	0.31
-do- Accum	131.30	139.20	− 0.10	0.31
Extra Income	355.50	378.10	− 1.00	3.91
-do- Accum	545.90	580.60	− 1.50	3.91
Financial	141.50	151.70†	+ 0.80	0.52
-do- Accum	149.80	160.60†	+ 0.70	0.52
Gilt Trust	62.44	64.38†	− 0.04	6.47
-do- Accum	91.95	94.82†	− 0.05	6.47
Health Fund Inc	192.10	205.10†	+ 0.60	
-do- Accum	192.10	205.10†	+ 0.60	.
Income & Growth	205.70	218.80	+ 0.10	3.68
-do- Accum	315.40	335.50	+ 0.10	3.68
Intl Growth	391.50	416.20†	+ 1.60	
-do- Accum	434.70	464.40†	+ 1.80	
Japan & Gen	176.40	188.10	+ 4.50	
-do- Accum	178.20	190.00	+ 4.60	
Monthly Inc	175.90	187.00†	− 1.00	3.70
Managed Port Inc	111.20	117.00	+ 0.20	2.04
-do- Accum	119.30	125.60	+ 0.20	2.04
Quarterly Income	52.79	56.52	− 0.58	4.61
-do- Accum	58.53	62.66	− 0.07	4.61
Recovery	344.40	368.20	− 1.40	0.15
-do- Accum	406.50	434.80	− 1.70	0.15
UK Growth	58.50	62.55	+ 0.22	2.54
-do- Accum	62.00	66.30	+ 0.24	2.54
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS Dealing 01705 881330 Enq 01705 881340				
FP American	52.40	55.74†	+ 0.52	0.53
FP Am Smlr Cos	155.70	168.50	+ 6.10	.
FP Asian Growth	243.90	260.80	− 8.00	.
FP Australian	344.60	369.70	− 1.00	
FP Equity Dist	399.70	425.20†	− 1.20	2.68
-do- Accum	867.50	922.80†	− 2.50	2.66
FP Euro Gth	234.30	249.20	− 0.40	0.25
-do- Accum	254.70	270.90	− 0.40	0.25
FP Intl Bond	59.88	63.38	+ 0.56	4.74
FP Intl Gth Dist	33.62	35.88†	− 0.02	0.55
-do- Accum	49.10	52.40†	− 0.03	0.55
FP Pac Basin Acc	195.60	209.00†	− 4.20	.
FP Income	55.83	59.55	− 0.26	4.64
-do- Accum	184.20	196.40	− 0.90	4.64
FP Jap Smlr Cos	298.10	317.90	− 6.20	..
FP Monthly Dist	71.95	76.78†	+ 0.05	5.58
FP Stg Deposit	100.50	100.50	+ 0.10	6.25
FP Tokyo	77.50	82.68	+ 1.00	
FP UK Focus	36.78	39.54†	+ 0.10	2.79
FP UK Growth	180.10	192.10	− 0.30	2.77
-do- Accum	353.70	377.20	− 0.70	2.77
Stewardship Dist	359.30	382.30†	− 2.30	1.94
-do- Accum	447.20	475.70†	− 2.60	1.94
Stwdship Inc Dist	72.89	77.54	− 0.11	3.77
-do- Accum	97.01	103.20	− 0.20	3.77
N Am Stshp Dist	112.00	119.10	+ 1.30	0.92
-do- Accum	119.60	127.20	+ 1.40	0.92
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	113.00	120.30†	+ 0.80	1.38
Open Cap Gth Acc	117.10	124.50†	+ 0.40	0.10
Cap Gth Inc Inc	109.20	116.10	+ 0.70	2.41
Cap Gth Inc Acc	112.90	120.10	+ 0.70	2.47
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic	113.10	120.30	+ 0.50	3.35
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac	117.50	125.00	+ 0.60	3.35
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0345 581 106/7				
CANDA	254.60	269.50†	− 1.10	2.29
Cash	49.32	50.06†	+ 0.04	5.32
Growth Portfolio	79.56	84.33	+ 0.22	0.97
Income Portfolio	64.72	68.44†	− 0.43	4.50
GEM DOLPHIN INV MGRS LTD 0171 236 6441				
Special Sits	201.60	215.60	− 7.00	1.57
Dividend	90.08	96.32	− 1.53	3.89

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
International	79.16	84.21	− 0.25	0.07
Ecology	88.92	94.59†	− 0.26	1.14
European	143.79	152.85	+ 0.57	
Far Eastern	287.60	305.80	+ 0.60	
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	98.19	101.60	− 0.70	7.57
Gilt Yield	116.80	123.20	− 0.40	5.90

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
NM JOINT INVESTORS LTD 01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1385.60	1405.70†	+ 14.60	3.00
Income #	1013.40	1028.50	+ 9.30	4.20
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	155.20	159.10		3.80

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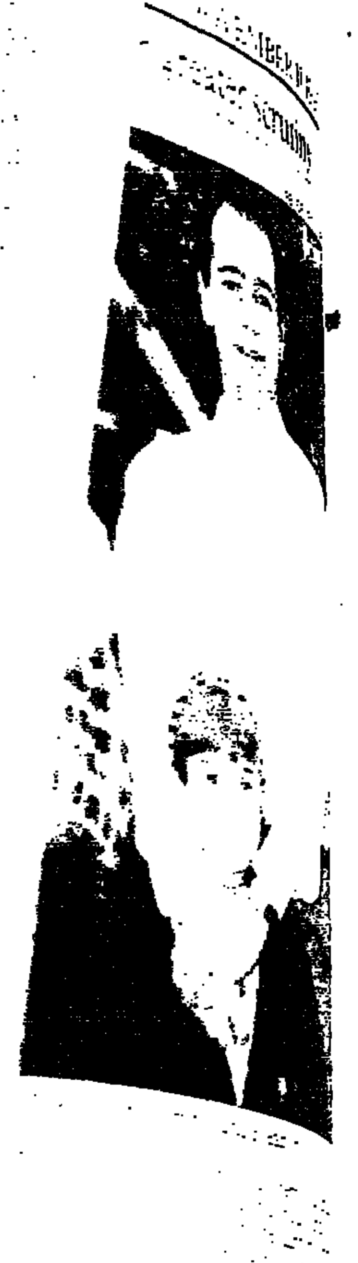
	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Global Income	213.50	227.10†	+ 0.80	3.81
High Yield	143.00	152.10†	+ 1.40	5.88
-do- Accum	451.30	480.10†	+ 4.50	5.88
Smllr Cos Div	54.38	57.85†	− 0.85	2.96
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	120.40	128.10	+ 4.90	
Asian Growth	301.10	320.30†	− 12.90	0.26
-do- Accum	353.90	376.50†	− 15.10	0.35
North American	93.01	98.85	+ 1.32	0.16
European Special	117.60	125.10	− 2.60	0.10
European	159.40	169.60	+ 0.50	0.46
-do- Accum	210.10	223.50	+ 0.60	0.46
Global Eqty Inc	109.20	115.90	− 0.30	2.22
Japan	404.50	430.30	− 5.80	.

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD 01244 680 065				
M & S Inv Ptflio	163.20	171.80	+ 0.70	2.12
-do- Accum	189.90	199.90	+ 0.80	2.12
UK Sel Ptflio	142.50	150.00	+ 0.80	2.54
-do- Accum	167.60	176.40	+ 0.90	2.54
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD 01204 264 842				
Managed Tst	71.26	75.81†	+ 0.53	3.70
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD 0131 479 4946				

هكذا من الاصل



Week ends on dull note

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
603	443	Anglian	569		5.8	8.9
366	295	Mid Kent Hldgs	358	..	4.4	8.7
641	467¾	North West▼	573	− 11	5.6	7.9
1108	676	Northumbrian	1108	+ 17	3.4	8.6
668	475	Severn Trent	650	− 4	5.6	8.0
2295	1855	South Staffs	2285	.	3.7	13.3
555	458	South West	505	.	6.8	7.0
731	517	Southern	684	− 6	4.7	8.8
568	456	Thames	545	− 4	6.0	7.4
800	592¼	Welsh	703	− 6	7.2	8.4
105½	100½	Welsh Cnv Prf	104	− ½	...	
361	298¼	Wessex	337	− 1	4.9	8.4
677½	472	Yorkshire	625	− 4	5.5	10.0

Source: Finstat

© USM. ¶ Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. ... No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 index

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0652

PERSONAL PENSIONS

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The Equitable

Dissent in Buckboard Bounce camp undermines confidence

Dublin Flyer can be Mackeson toast

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE relationship between a racehorse owner and a trainer is like a marriage. Both partners have the best intentions when they join forces and seek a long-term fulfilment, only to find that the path to happiness is not always smooth.

As the National Hunt season begins in earnest at Cheltenham today, the outcome of the Mackeson Gold Cup could hinge upon a battle of wills between Robert Ogden and Gordon Richards, the owner and trainer respectively of Buckboard Bounce.

The in-form Richards announced on Wednesday that his useful nine-year-old chaser would not run in the first big chase of the season because the ground was far too fast. However, when the declarations for the £60,000 race were made yesterday, included among the dozen runners was none other than Buckboard Bounce.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Morgans Harbour
(4.10 Cheltenham)
Next best: Stompin
(2.25 Cheltenham)

A far from happy trainer explained: "It is up to the owner. It is not my decision, the owner wanted the horse to run. He will run well but it is not his ground."

Ogden, who was attending the Tattersalls sales in Ireland yesterday, was bemused to find himself the centre of big-race speculation but explained: "What we said earlier in the week was based on the prevailing conditions. As the conditions have changed, we have changed with them. We are going to Cheltenham with our best foot forward."

All of which makes life complicated for backers attempting to solve the puzzle presented by the race over an extended 2½ miles. Buckboard Bounce began the season winning the Glynwed International Chase at Newbury, a race Pegwell Bay and Joint Sovereignty used as a stepping stone to Mackeson success in 1988 and 1989.

Significantly, the official going that day was good to firm, while the ground today is likely to be good or even good to soft, which should be in his favour.

However, given the apparent unhappiness in the Buckboard Bounce camp it could be worthwhile looking elsewhere for the winner. Three horses stand above the rest. If the ground had remained fast Coulton would have been my choice to defy top weight, but the arrival of the rain will assist his rivals and the pair that make most appeal are Dublin Flyer and Big Matt.

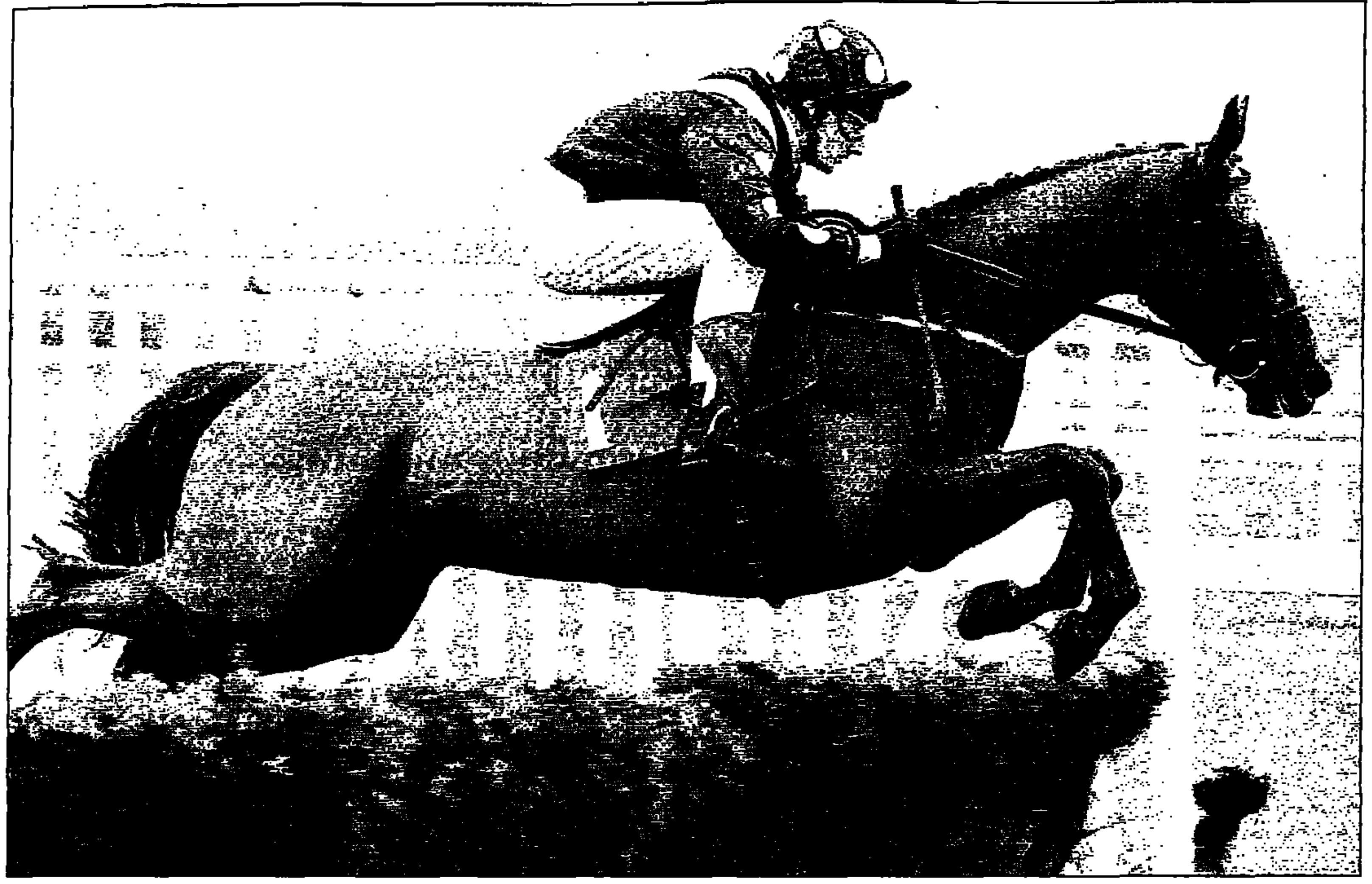
Big Matt ran a grand race on his seasonal reappearance behind Egypt Mill Prince at Ascot and, unlike the winner, should relish the step up in distance. However, Nicky Henderson's promising chaser is 7lb out of the handicap and traditionally that has proved an insurmountable obstacle to success in this competitive race.

Dublin Flyer is without a run this season and only two horses in the past decade have won this race without a prep race, but Tim Forster's magnificent chaser is at his very best after a lengthy break and he has won on his seasonal reappearance for the past two seasons. He looks sure to run well.

Away from the gaze of the television cameras, **Bertone** is just preferred to the well-regarded Silverfort Lad in the Flowers IPA Novices' Chase. **Earlymorning Light** looked assured of victory on his chasing debut at Market Rasen nine days ago until falling three fences out when clear. Gordon Richards's novice can make amends in the Sean Graham Coatbridge Novices' Chase at Ayr.

On the same card, **Wee River** looks attractively treated in the Sean Graham Barrhead Handicap Chase. At Market Rasen, **Garrylough** (1.50) and **Gilpa Valu** (2.55) should complete a chasing double.

JULIAN HERBERT



Wisley Wonder and Jenks register a clear-cut success in the Countryside Raceday Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham yesterday

Progressive Straight Talk to have last word

CHELTENHAM
CHANNEL 4

2.25: At their best, few of these could be ruled out with confidence, and race fitness could make a big difference here. **Stompin** was not given a hard race when finishing a creditable third behind Clifton Beat at Newbury three weeks ago and Henrietta Knight's four-year-old could step up noticeably on that performance.

The winner of the Glenlivet Anniversary Hurdle at Aintree last season, he jumps soundly and comes from a stable in decent form. The Reg Akehurst-trained Admiral's Well is much the best of these on the Flat, having finished third in the Gold Cup at Ascot in June. He won well enough over hurdles at the same track two weeks ago, but may be best on faster ground.

Home Counties was in fine form towards the end of last season, winning the County Hurdle here and the Scottish Champion Hurdle at Ayr. He remains reasonably treated and should not be far away if fully wound up for his reappearance. Romancer showed improvement when winning the Free Handicap Hurdle at Chepstow and looks the biggest danger, while Nicky Henderson's Thinking Twice is another to consider.

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

3.00: See above.

3.35: Rough Quest has been back in training since July and is reported in great shape by Terry Casey. The winner of the Ritz Club Chase here last March and a competitive handicap in Ireland, he looks sure to put in a bold show but may just need his first run this campaign.

Willsford will improve for a recent run at Ascot but **Straight Talk** gets the vote after winning three of his four starts this season. The Paul Nicholls-trained eight-year-old is in great heart, being most impressive at Sandown recently, and can score again at the main expense of Flyer's Nap, winner of the Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Challenge Cup at the Cheltenham Festival last season.

Nigel Twiston-Davies's Earth Summit has recently been well backed for the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury in a fortnight, but may need the run today, while Gold Cap won this race a year ago but showed little on his reappearance at Chepstow.

4.10: **Morgans Harbour** looks by far the best bet on the card. With stablemate Cab On Target keeping the weights down, he appears to have outstanding claims. Since joining Mary Reveley as a maiden, he has won ten of his 12 starts but still looks reasonably handicapped over hurdles. Trickle Lad, a useful novice when trained in Ireland last season by Aidan O'Brien, looked none too keen on his final start at Aintree, while Greenhil Tare Away does not look particularly well treated. It will be no surprise if Mrs Reveley saddles the first two home.

RICHARD EVANS

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RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Leicester (first race, 1.00), Plumpton (1.10), Wolverhampton (AW, 1.50).

TUESDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, 1.20), Newton Abbot (1.00), Wetherby (1.10).

WEDNESDAY: Haydock Park (1.20), Hereford (1.10), Kempton Park (1.00).

THURSDAY: Southwell (AW, 1.20), Warwick (1.10), Wincanton (1.30).

FRIDAY: Aintree (1.15), Ascot (BBC, 1.00), Sedgefield (12.20).

SATURDAY: Aintree (BBC, 12.30), Ascot (BBC, 12.45), Catterick Bridge (12.40), Nottingham (12.35), Towcester (12.55).

Flat meetings in bold

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MACKESON GOLD CUP HANDICAP CHASE
2 miles 4½ furlongs, Cheltenham 3.00pm, Live on CH4 TV.

11/4	Coulton	12/1	Amtrak Express
7/2	Dublin Flyer	12/1	Bradbury Star
6/1	Buckboard Bounce	25/1	Bavard Dieu
13/2	Big Matt	25/1	Gnome's Tycoon
7/1	Egypt Mill Prince	25/1	Postage Stamp
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Jockeys will challenge suspensions

TONY McCOY, the season's leading National Hunt jockey, is to appeal against the seven-day ban he and five other riders collected for taking the wrong course at Taunton on Thursday. He will lodge his protest against the severity of a suspension that could rule him out of two of the biggest Saturdays of the jump season.

McCoy will be joined by Mick Fitzgerald and Mark Richards before the Jockey Club's disciplinary committee and probably by Guy Lewis, Tom Dascombe and Emily Jones, who were each handed identical punishments.

"I'm mostly upset at the severity of the ban for what was my first offence," McCoy said yesterday. "I was in behind two or three horses at the second last and I just couldn't see what was happening."

The first four finishers were disqualified for going the wrong side of the dolled-off last flight and the race awarded to the fifth, Safe Secret.

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AYR

THUNDERER
12.35 Berkeley Bounder. 1.05 Ivy House. 1.40 Pride Of May. 2.10 One Man. 2.45 Chantry Beath. 3.15 Beaucadeau. 3.45 Decent Penny.

GOING: GOOD SIS

12.35 SEAN GRAHAM SPORTING LIFE JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,302: 2m) (20 runners)

1 361 DONE WELL 24 (D,F) P Monteith 11-6 ... A Dobbin 94
2 BARK'N'BITE 58F Mrs M Reveley 11-0 ... P Niven –
3 BATTERY BOY 54F W Elsey 11-0 ... D Byrne –
4 BERKELEY BOUNDER 22F R McKellar 11-0 ... M Dwyer –
5 CASPER'S RISK 191F T Dyer 11-0 ... B Harding (3) –
6 CELEBRATION CAKE 42F Miss L Perratt 11-0 ... R Guest –
7 GRATE BRITISH 42F E Weymes 11-0 ... R Dunwoody –
8 HOT BREEZE 269F Miss K Whitehouse 11-0 ... W Humphreys –
9 KARAYLAR 56F W Storey 11-0 ... J Supple (3) –
10 MEDIA EXPRESS 32F M Brittain 11-0 ... D Wilkinson –
11 PROPHETS HONOUR 30F P Haslam 11-0 ... M Foster –
12 RAZMAK R Fisher 11-0 ... M Moloney –
13 SEDVICTA 165F Mrs M Reveley 11-0 ... G Cahill (7) –
14 TEEJAY'N'AITCH 39F J Goldie 11-0 ... F Perratt (3) –
15 TO PROVE A POINT 151F J J O'Neill 11-0 ... A Roche (3) –
16 XAIPETE G Moore 11-0 ... J Callaghan –
17 FINAL FLING 58F Denys Smith 10-9 ... T Reed –
18 KRALINGEN 112F N Chamberlain 10-9 ... R Supple –
19 33 ON A PEDESTAL 9 Mrs J Ramsden 10-9 ... R Garritty 99
20 SALDUBA 48F T Dyer 10-9 ... A Linton (7) –

4-1 Bark'n'bite, 5-1 Done Well, 7-1 Berkeley Bounder, 8-1 On A Pedestal, 10-1 Sedvicta, 12-1 Prophets Honour, 16-1 others.

1.05 SEAN GRAHAM COATBRIDGE NOVICES CHASE
(£2,892: 3m 1f) (8)

1 31F- LIE DETECTOR 166 (F,G) C Parker 7-11-6 ... D Parker (3) 92
2 P1/5 BARNSTORMER 14 (G) E Elliott 9-11-0 ... Mr R Johnson (5) –
3 43-F EARLYMORNING LIGHT 9 (BF,G) G Richards 6-11-0 A Dobbin 99
4 122- ISLAND CHIEF 203 (S) P Beaumont 6-11-0 ... R Supple –
5 250- IVY HOUSE 259 (G,S) J J O'Neill 7-11-0 ... M Dwyer –
6 004/ LAUDER SQUARE 729 T Dun 7-11-0 ... T Reed –
7 /51- SEVEN TOWERS 339 (S) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-0 ... P Niven –
8 00P- CANAILLOU II 241 Mrs S Bramall 5-10-12 ... J Burke –

6-4 Earlymorning Light, 9-4 Island Chief, 7-2 Seven Towers, 6-1 Lie Detector, 8-1 Ivy House, 20-1 Lauder Square, 50-1 others.

1.40 SEAN GRAHAM IRVINE HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,615: 2m 4f) (15)

1 001- SPARKY GAYLE 208 (CD,F,G,S) C Parker 5-12-0 ... B Storey 86
2 2-12 PORPHYRIOS 38 (BF,S) K Bailey 4-11-12 ... R Dunwoody 84
3 212- CUTTHROAT KID 47F (D,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-9 C McCormack (7) 82
4 41-5 MASTER OF TROY 35 (V,CD,F,G,S) C Parker 7-11-8 D Parker (3) 99
5 0P2- SUNDAY NEWS'N'ECHO 9F (G) W Storey 4-11-4 J Supple (3) 85
6 U-34 WEAVER GEORGE 7 (F,G) J Hellens 5-11-4 ... M Dwyer 97
7 242- ABBOT OF FURNESS 178 (CD,S) G Richards 11-11-4 A Dobbin 96
8 300/ REVE DE VALSE 538 (G,S) Denys Smith 8-11-4 B Harding (3) –
9 13- PRIDE OF MAY 68F (V,S) C Fairhurst 4-11-4 ... J Callaghan 84
10 R13- NICHOLAS PLANT 177 (CD,S) J Goldie 6-11-3 ... A Watt (7) 94
11 5-53 AIDE MEMOIRE 21 (S) Mrs B Broad 6-10-10 ... T Reed 87
12 -214 DESERT FIGHTER 10 (BF,D,F) Mrs M Reveley 4-10-10 P Niven 95
13 01-1 JOHNS THE BOY 155 (CD,G,S) N Mason 9-10-9 S Haworth (7) 91
14 SP1/ LOTHIAN PILOT 565 (D,G,S) L Lungo 8-10-4 ... F Perratt (3) –
15 422- TOPOTHENORTHRACING 168 (S) P Beaumont 5-10-2 R Supple 90

7-2 Cutthroat Kid, 5-1 Porphyrios, 6-1 Desert Fighter, 7-1 Sparky Gayle, 8-1 Johns The Boy, Weaver George, 12-1 Nicholas Plant, Abbot Of Furness, 14-1 Master Of Try, Topothenorthracing, 16-1 others.

2.10 SEAN GRAHAM MOTHERWELL CHASE
(Limited handicap: £10,309: 3m 1f) (7)

1 210- JODAMI 240 (C,F,G,S) P Beaumont 10-12-0 ... M Dwyer 90
2 124- COGENT 196 (F,G,S) J Glover 11-11-3 ... Mr C Bonner (3) 99
3 1UF- ONE MAN 259 (CD,F,G,S) G Richards 7-10-12 ... A Dobbin 80
4 3U0- WHISPERING STEEL 242 (CD,G,S) K Bailey 9-10-9 R Dunwoody 95
5 0P-P ANTONIN 22 (D,F,G,S) Mrs S Bramall 7-10-7 ... J Burke 92
6 1F3- MIDNIGHT CALLER 205 (S) N Chance 9-10-7 Mr R Johnson (5) 84
7 11F- STRONG DEEL 301 (C,F,G,S) W Reed 7-10-7 ... T Reed 63

2-1 Jodami, 5-2 One Man, 7-2 Cogent, 6-1 Whispering Steel, 14-1 Midnight Caller, 20-1 Strong Deel, 25-1 Antonin.

2.45 SEAN GRAHAM HAMILTON HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,566: 2m) (12)

1 045- DEVILRY 196 (CD,S) G Moore 5-11-10 ... J Callaghan 98
2 0F4- CHANTRY BEATH 29F (D,F) C Thornton 4-11-9 N Horrocks (7) 83
3 100/ MARTINI EXECUTIVE 756 (B,D,F) B Wilkinson 7-11-5 N Bentley –
4 1- CHUMMY'S SAGA 449 (F) L Lungo 5-11-3 ... T Reed 89
5 5-2F LINLATHEN 15 Mrs M Reveley 5-11-0 ... P Niven 99
6 440- KALKO 47F (D,G,S) J Goldie 6-10-13 ... F Perratt (3) 96
7 233- MILTON ROOMS 231 Mrs A Russell 5-10-8 ... Mr S Love 91
8 4-00 MISS CIRCLE 7 L Woods 5-10-4 ... D Fisher –
9 P00- STEADFAST ELITE 58F (G) J J O'Neill 4-10-1 A Roche (3) 91
10 06-0 THISONESFORALICE 20 J Goldie 7-10-0 ... A Watt (7) 85
11 000/ HILLTOWN BLUES 530 (CD,G,S) T Dyer 6-10-0 ... A Dobbin –
12 046/ MY SISTER LUCY 530 (G) Miss K Whitehouse 5-10-0 W Humphreys –

2-1 Linlathen, 4-1 Chantry Beath, 5-1 Chummy's Saga, 6-1 Devilry, 12-1 Kalko, 14-1 Martini Executive, 20-1 others.

3.15 SEAN GRAHAM BARRHEAD CHASE
(Handicap: £4,743: 2m) (7)

1 13-1 WEE RIVER 21 (D,F,G,S) G Moore 6-11-10 ... J Callaghan 98
2 122- POLITICAL TOWER 198 (CD,G,S) R Nixon 8-11-3 ... T Reed 96
3 442- RODEO STAR 178 (B,D,F,G,S) N Tinkler 9-11-1 R Dunwoody 98
4 5-32 BEAUCADEAU 15 (D,F,G) M Barnes 9-11-0 ... P Waggott 93
5 -112 BELDINE 14 (BF,D,F,G,S) P Monteith 10-10-11 ... A Dobbin 96
6 2P2U REGAL ROMPER 7 (D,F,G) Mrs S Smith 7-10-7 ... R Guest 99
7 U44- SONSIE MO 374 (D,F,G,S) Mrs S Bradburne 10-10-0 B Storey 90

4-5 Wee River, 6-1 Rodeo Star, 7-1 Political Tower, 8-1 Regal Romper, Beldine, 12-1 Beaucadeau, 16-1 Sonsie Mo.

3.45 TRIPLEPRINT STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,805: 2m) (18)

1 1- CITTADINO 336 (G) C Thornton 5-11-11 ... B Grattan (7) –
2 BRIGHT DESTINY J Goldie 4-11-4 ... F Perratt (3) –
3 GRAND CRU Mrs M Reveley 4-11-4 ... C McCormack (7) –
4 HENRY HOOLET P Monteith 6-11-4 ... A Dobbin –
5 5- HIGHBEATH 203 Mrs M Reveley 4-11-4 ... P Niven –
6 LUCKY TANNER N Chamberlain 4-11-4 Miss C Metcalfe (7) –
7 MEESONS EXPRESS D Eddy 5-11-4 ... B Storey –
8 3- PAPPA CHARLIE 245 C Parker 4-11-4 ... D Parker (3) –
9 QATTARA W McKeown 5-11-4 ... A Stanford –
10 0 ROOSECOTE 15 R Fisher 4-11-4 ... M Moloney –
11 00- RUSTIC WARRIOR 236 J Hellens 5-11-4 ... B Harding (3) –
12 SELDOM BUT SEVERE E Elliott 5-11-4 ... Mr R Johnson (5) –
13 SHANAVOGH G Moore 4-11-4 ... J Callaghan –
14 SUAS LEAT J Jefferson 5-11-4 ... M Dwyer –
15 THE STITCHER (B) L Lungo 5-11-4 ... T Reed –
16 645- DECENT FAIRWAY 238 Mrs M Reveley 6-10-13 M Herrington (7) –
17 2- DECENT PENNY 203 Mrs M Reveley 6-10-13 ... G Cahill (7) –
18 0 KUDOS PRINCESS 15 Mrs A Naughton 5-10-13 ... M Foster –

3-1 Cittadino, 9-2 Meesons Express, 5-1 Decent Penny, 7-1 Grand Cru, 8-1 Highbeath, Suas Leat, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Thornton, 6 winners from 19 runners, 31.6%; Mrs M Reveley, 33 from 115, 28.7%; N Mason, 5 from 19, 26.3%; J J O'Neill, 16 from 68, 23.5%; G Richards, 44 from 189, 23.3%.

JOCKEYS: D Wilkinson, 5 winners from 16 rides, 31.3%; A Roche, 6 from 21, 28.6%; P Niven, 32 from 124, 25.8%; J Supple, 5 from 23, 21.7%; A Dobbin, 17 from 95, 17.9%; B Harding, 4 from 27, 14.8%.

☐ Mutakddim, Bin Rosie and Moon King represent Britain in the group three Prix Perth over a mile at Saint-Cloud tomorrow. Gay Kelleway's Alkareb tackles the listed Prix le Fabuleux on the same card. Paul Cole's Champion Stakes third, Montjoy, the mount of Richard Quinn, spearheads a strong raid on the group one Premio Roma in Rome tomorrow. The other four British runners are Alriffa, Prince Of Andros, Richard Of York and Right Win. There will be three British challengers for the group two Premio Ribot (1m) on the same card: Mistle Cat, Mr Martini and Penny Drops.

CHELTENHAM

THUNDERER
1.15 Wishing
1.50 Bertone
2.25 Chief's Song
3.00 Coulton
3.35 STRAIGHT TALK (nap)
4.10 Trickle Lad

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.15 WISHING.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 .. B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD SIS

1.15 FLOWERS FINE ALES NOVICES HURDLE
(Grade II: £8,312: 2m 110yd) (12 runners)

101 21/42-10 CALL EQUINAME 7 (D,BF,G) (Coburn, Barber, Lewis) P Nicholls 5-11-2 .. A P McCoy 70
102 221-121 SPEEDWELL PRINCE 14 (D,F) (Bar Fixtures) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-2 ... T Jenks 76
103 05- BHAVNAGAR 30F (E Berry) B Ellison 4-10-12 ... M A Fitzgerald 59
104 2311F4 BLAIR CASTLE 14 (D,F) (Highflyers) G Balding 4-10-12 ... D J Burchell –
105 DESERT POWER 93F (R Williams) D Burchell 6-10-12 ... J Osborne –
106 HAWKER HUNTER 397F (G Madan Mohan) C Egerton 4-10-12 ... P Hide –
107 1 MANDYS MANTINO 36 (F) (J Plackett) J Gifford 5-10-12 ... Mr P Henley 72
108 143 PERSIAN SAINT 14 (G) (Whitcombe Manor) D Elsworth 4-10-12 ... G McCourt 81
109 1/2444-1 THE BOBTAIL FOX 51 (F,G,S) (Racing Club Of Wales) P Hobbs 6-10-12 G Bradley –
110 0-1 WILDE MUSIC 17 (F) (A Brodin) C Brooks 5-10-12 ... D Bridgwater 88
111 12 WISHING 22 (B,CD,F) (A Spence) R Akehurst 4-10-12 ... D Bridgwater 88
112 00301-1 UP THE JUNCTION 31 (D,F,G) (Mrs N Dutfield) Mrs P Dutfield 5-10-11 .. A McCabe 74

BETTING: 11-4 Speedwell Prince, 7-2 Wishing, 6-1 Persian Saint, 8-1 Call Equiname, Mandys Mantino, Hawker Hunter, 10-1 others.

1994: BERUDE NOT TO 5-11-0 J Osborne (5-4 fav) O Sherwood 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

CALL EQUINAME beat SPEEDWELL PRINCE (7lb better off) ½l in 14-runner novice hurdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, good) on penultimate start. SPEEDWELL PRINCE beat Mr Edgar 4l in 11-runner novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good to firm) with PERSIAN SAINT (3lb better) 3l 3rd and BLAIR CASTLE (6lb better) neck 4th. MANDYS MANTINO beat Neat Feat 1½l in 16-runner National Hunt Flat race here (2m 110yd, good to firm). THE BOBTAIL FOX beat Stac-Pollaidh 2½l in maiden hurdle at Taunton (2m 3½f, good to firm). WILDE MUSIC beat Your Risk neck in 8-runner NH Flat race here (2m 110yd, good to firm). WISHING 1¼l 2nd of 8 to Clifton Beat in conditions hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good).
Selection: WISHING

1.50 FLOWERS IPA NOVICES CHASE
(£4,720: 2m 4f 110yd) (6 runners)

201 13/F-132 BERTONE 17 (F,G) (Mrs H Duffey) K Bailey 6-11-6 ... J Osborne 88
202 6U640-1 LE MEILLE 36 (C,F) (N Mitchell) A Jarvis 6-11-6 ... A Maguire 74
203 000/1- SILVERFORT LAD 215 (G) (A Wates) T Casey 6-11-4 ... M A Fitzgerald –
204 P2315-U CRACKING IDEA 14 (G) (A Parker) J Edwards 7-11-0 ... D Bentley –
205 221242 SENSITIVE KING 21 (BF,F,G) (Mrs J Morris) J Jenkins 7-11-0 ... P Carberry 70
206 62410-P EVANGELICA 11 (S) (Pipe Racing Club) M Pipe 5-10-8 ... D Bridgwater –

BETTING: 5-4 Bertone, 2-1 Le Meille, 9-2 Cracking Idea, 12-1 Silverfort Lad, 14-1 Evangelica, 16-1 Sensitive King.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

BERTONE 1¼l 2nd of 4 to Storm Falcon in novice chase here (2m 110yd, good to firm). LE MEILLE beat Pridwell 2½l in 4-runner novice chase here (2m 5f, good to firm). SILVERFORT LAD beat Swordbender 2½l in 10-runner hunter chase at Navan (2m 6f, good to yielding). CRACKING IDEA best recent effort beat Sky Burst 1l in amateur riders novice hurdle at Exeter (2m 3f, good). SENSITIVE KING best recent effort ½l 2nd of 7 to Take Two in novice chase at Bangor (2m 4f 110yd, good). EVANGELICA best recent effort beat Rowlandsons Gold 8l in 12-runner selling hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, soft).
Selection: BERTONE

2.25 MURPHYS HANDICAP HURDLE C4
(£28,530: 2m 110yd) (15 runners)

301 05/22-11 PADRE MIO 44 (D,G,S) (Lady Lloyd Webber) C Brooks 7-11-10 ... G Bradley –
302 2/12226- KADASTROF 301 (D,S) (A Paton) R Dickin 5-11-7 ... D Meredith 90
303 13131/0- DREAMS END 7F (D,F,S) (T Price) J Bradley 7-11-3 ... M Hourigan –
304 231001- CHIEF MINISTER 133F (D,F,S) (G Shiel) T Dyer 6-11-1 ... Peter Hobbs 99
305 223110- HOME COUNTIES 16F (C,D,F,G,S) (Roxy Cinemas Ltd) D Moffatt 6-11-1 ... D J Moffatt 94
306 11012-3 STOMPIN 22 (D,G,S) (Voice Group Ltd) Miss H Knight 4-10-12 ... J Osborne 91
307 11PP1/1 ADMIRAL'S WELL 14 (D,F,G,S) (A Spence) R Akehurst 5-10-8 ... D Bridgwater 94
308 1121- EXPRESS GIFT 22F (D,G,S) (Homer, Young, Arnold) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-5 ... N Smith 90
309 2P160-U CHIEF'S SONG 28 (CD,G) (Mrs A Devine) S Dow 5-10-5 ... A Maguire 85
310 3F243-1 ROMANCER 42 (D,F,G) (M Archer) N Twiston-Davies 4-10-4 ... T Jenks 94
311 13112-0 WHITE WILLOW 147 (D,F,S) (H North) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-2 ... Mr M H Naughton 94
312 UF/3P64- FRICKLEY 198 (D,G,S) (R Ogden) F Murphy 9-10-2 ... P Carberry 92
313 3/46/32 LONESOME TRAIN 28 (D,BF,F,G) (S Gay) C Weedon 6-10-0 ... B Fenton (5) 88
314 051U40- SUMMERHILL SPECIAL 23F (D,S) (Mrs N Dutfield) Mrs P Dutfield 4-10-0 ... A McCabe 89
315 /6F6-23 BOOKCASE 7 (D,F,G) (Adept Ltd) D Elsworth 8-10-0 ... A Procter (3) 78

Long handicap: Lonesome Train 9-6, Summerhill Special 9-5, Bookcase 8-12.

BETTING: 5-2 Admiral's Well, 7-2 Padre Mio, 6-1 Stompin, 7-1 Express Gift, 8-1 Romancer, 10-1 Chief Minister, 12-1 Kadastrof, 14-1 others.

1994: ATOURS 6-11-5 P Holley (3-1) D Elsworth 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

PADRE MIO beat Nordic Thorn 1l in 11-runner handicap hurdle at Listowel (2m, good to yielding). KADASTROF 2l 2nd of 8 to Trying Again in 6-runner handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m, soft) on penultimate start. CHIEF MINISTER beat Eurolink The Lad 3l in 13-runner Swinton Handicap Hurdle at Haydock (2m, good to firm) with SUMMERHILL SPECIAL (5lb worse off) 48l 11th and HOME COUNTIES (8lb better off) 6l 13th. STOMPIN 3l 3rd of 8 to Clifton Beat in hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good). ADMIRAL'S WELL beat Non Vintage 2½l in 6-runner handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good to firm). EXPRESS GIFT beat HOME COUNTIES (10lb better off) 9l in 13-runner handicap hurdle at Carlisle (2m 1f, soft). ROMANCER beat New Inn 1¾l in 10-runner handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, good).
Selection: STOMPIN

3.00 MACKESON GOLD CUP HANDICAP CHASE C4
(Grade III: £38,502: 2m 4f 110yd) (12 runners)

401 32111-1 COULTON 20 (C,D,F,G,S) (M St Quinton) O Sherwood 8-12-0 ... J Osborne 95
402 5/2152F- BRADBURY STAR 241 (CD,F,G,S) (J Campbell) J Gifford 10-12-0 ... P Hide 99
403 2/11U21- DUBLIN FLYER 219 (C,D,G,S) (J Sumner) T Forster 9-11-8 ... B Powell 95
404 3665P-3 SECOND SCHEDUAL 27 (C,F,G,S) Miss A McMahon (Ire) 10-10-13 ... K O'Brien 98
405 3200-31 EGYPT MILL PRINCE 14 (C,D,F,G,S) (S Webb) Mrs J Pitman 9-10-9 ... W Marston 95
406 11380-2 AMTRAK EXPRESS 20 (D,F,G,S) (Amtrak Express) N Henderson 8-10-7 J R Kavanagh 95
407 02252-1 BUCKBOARD BOUNCE 22 (D,F,G,S) (R Ogden) G Richards 9-10-6 ... P Carberry 92
408 -3F1443 BAVARD DIEU 7 (D,F,G,S) (S Maccrossan) M Cunningham (Ire) 7-10-0 ... A P McCoy 80
409 11531-2 BIG MATT 14 (D,F,G,S) (R Shaw) N Henderson 7-10-0 ... M A Fitzgerald 87
410 32252-1 GNOME'S TYCOON 14 (D,F,G,S) (Flibbertigibbet) H Johnson 9-10-0 ... A Maguire 81
411 /F111-F POSTAGE STAMP 101 (D,F,G) (P O'Donnell) F Murphy 8-10-0 ... G Bradley 70
412 13-1243 ANDRELOT 56 (B,D,BF,F,G) (H Jones) P Bowen 8-10-0 ... D Bridgwater 74

Long handicap: Bavard Dieu 9-8, Big Matt 9-7, Gnome's Tycoon 9-4, Postage Stamp 9-0, Andrelot 8-13.

BETTING: 3-1 Coulton, 9-2 Dublin Flyer, 5-1 Buckboard Bounce, 7-1 Big Matt, Egypt Mill Prince, 8-1 Second Schedual, 10-1 Bradbury Star, 16-1 others.

1994: BRADBURY STAR 9-11-11 P Hide (5-1) J Gifford 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

COULTON beat AMTRAK EXPRESS (6lb better off) 6l in 3-runner Desert Orchid handicap chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, firm).
BRADBURY STAR beat SECOND SCHEDUAL (1lb worse off) head in this race last year (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft).
DUBLIN FLYER beat Toureen Prince 9l in 26-runner handicap chase at Aintree (2m 6f, good) with BUCKBOARD BOUNCE (7lb better off) 12½l 5th. SECOND SCHEDUAL 3½l 3rd of 10 in handicap chase at Limerick (3m, good).
EGYPT MILL PRINCE beat BIG MATT (6lb worse off) 1l in 8-runner handicap chase at Ascot (2m, good to firm). BUCKBOARD BOUNCE beat Mulbank 5l in 6-runner handicap chase at Newbury (2m 4f, good to firm). BIG MATT beat Kibreet 7l in handicap chase at Ascot (2m, good to firm).
Selection: DUBLIN FLYER

3.35 FLOWERS ORIGINAL HANDICAP CHASE C4
(£10,309: 3m 3f 110yd) (8 runners)

501 51F21P- EARTH SUMMIT 280 (B,C,G,S) (Summit Partners) N Twiston-Davies 7-12-0 T Jenks 98
502 21101-2 WILLSFORD 14 (C,F,G,S) (A Kaplan) Mrs J Pitman 12-12-0 ... W Marston 92
503 F/33211- ROUGH QUEST 198 (C,G,S) (A Wates) T Casey 9-11-12 ... M A Fitzgerald 84
504 11021F- FLYER'S NAP 198 (C,G,S) (R Tory) R Alner 9-11-2 ... Mr P Henley (5) 99
505 11430-5 GOLD CAP 42 (CD,G,S) (C Meadows) P Hobbs 10-10-12 ... G McCourt 87
506 1U-1411 STRAIGHT TALK 7 (F,G,S) (Mrs C Paterson) P Nicholls 8-10-6 ... A P McCoy 98
507 0/UR3P-U CYTHERE 10 (S) (K Carr) J Gifford 11-10-0 ... L Aspell (7) 82
508 6P063-5 PETTY BRIDGE 16 (F,G,S) (C Bouston) A James 11-10-0 ... A Maguire 70

Long handicap: Cythere 9-10, Petty Bridge 9-7

BETTING: 9-4 Willsford, 3-1 Straight Talk, 4-1 Earth Summit, 9-2 Rough Quest, 6-1 Flyer's Nap, 8-1 Gold Cap, 25-1 others.

1994: GOLD CAP 9-10-0 R Dunwoody (5-1) P Hobbs 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

EARTH SUMMIT best effort beat Chatam 1½l in 4-runner grade II Peter Marsh Chase at Haydock (3m, heavy) penultimate start last season.
WILLSFORD best effort beat Sweet Duke 3l in 22-runner Scottish Grand National at Ayr (4m 1f, good to firm) final start last season with PETTY BRIDGE (16lb better off) tailed off 13th. ROUGH QUEST beat Feathered Gale 2½l in the grade II Castlemartin Stud Pat Taaffe Handicap Chase at Punchestown (3m 1f, good) final start last season. FLYER'S NAP beat Tatbol 12l in 16-runner handicap chase here (3m 1f, soft) penultimate start last season. STRAIGHT TALK beat Staunch Rival 9l in 4-runner handicap chase at Sandown (3m 110yd, good to firm).
Selection: FLYER'S NAP

4.10 FUGGLES IMPERIAL HANDICAP HURDLE C4
(£7,068: 3m 2f) (6 runners)

601 1F121-1 CAB ON TARGET 14 (C,F,G,S) (Mrs E Murray) Mrs M Reveley 9-12-0 ... G Lee (3) 99
602 112111- MORGANS HARBOUR 218 (F,G,S) (P Owen) Mrs M Reveley 9-10-4 ... N Smith 98
603 111400- TRICKLE LAD 218 (F,G,S) (Mrs H Prendergast) F Murphy 6-10-2 ... P Carberry 98
604 F1121R- GREENHIL TARE AWAY 241 (C,F,G,S) (Mrs P Payne) P Hobbs 7-10-0 ... Peter Hobbs 88
605 P/221FP- GILLAN COVE 232 (S) (Forum Racing) R Alner 6-10-0 ... Mr P Henley (5) 80
606 11-P532 HOLY JOE 17 (F,G,S) (S Lewis) D Burchell 13-10-0 ... D J Burchell 77

Long handicap: Greenhil Tare Away 9-6, Gillan Cove 8-4, Holy Joe 8-4

BETTING: 7-4 Cab On Target, 2-1 Morgans Harbour, 5-1 Greenhil Tare Away, 7-1 Gillan Cove, 8-1 Trickle Lad, 16-1 Holy Joe

1994: FUZZY LOGIC 6-10-0 D Bridgwater (9-2) N Twiston-Davies 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

CAB ON TARGET beat Avro Anson 5l in 4-runner West Yorkshire Hurdle at Wetherby (3m 1f, good to firm). MORGANS HARBOUR beat Jack Button short-head in the 15-runner Belle Epoque Sefton Novices' Hurdle at Aintree (3m 110yd, good to firm). TRICKLE LAD best effort 11l 4th of 9 to Hotel Minella in Deloitte and Touche Novices' Hurdle at Leopardstown (2m 2f, soft to heavy). GREENHIL TARE AWAY best effort last season beat Colonmy Boy 1½l in 6-runner novice chase at Warwick (3m 2f, soft). GILLAN COVE best effort beat Just A Second 10l in 13-runner handicap hurdle at Newbury (3m 110yd, heavy). HOLY JOE 3l 2nd of 6 to Smith Too in handicap hurdle here (2m 7f 110yd, good to firm).
Selection: CAB ON TARGET

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
K Bailey	21	83	25.3	A P McCoy	7	27	25.9
O Sherwood	11	66	16.7	A Maguire	25	173	14.5
J Gifford	18	116	15.5	J Osborne	21	146	14.4
N Twiston-Davies	28	187	15.0	D Bridgwater	11	83	13.3
C Brooks	6	40	15.0	G McCourt	11	83	13.3
J Edwards	4	28	14.3	W Marston	9	76	11.8

Blinkered first time

TODAY: Ayr: 1.40 Pride Of May, 3.45 The Stitcher. Cheltenham: 1.15 Wishing. Market Rasen: 12.50 Deep Dawn, Quick Decision, 3.25 Hicksons Choice. Windsor: 1.00 Colt D'Or, Nicolan Bay, 1.30 So Audacious, 2.00 Silks And Studs, United Front. Wolverhampton: 7.00 Distinct Beauty, 9.00 Frances Mary, 9.30 Harry Welsh. TOMORROW: Fontwell: 1.00 Knyaz, 2.40 Annio Chilone, 3.50 Holiday Island. Cheltenham: 1.15 Symbol Of Success, 3.35 Bagout

هكذا من الاصل

McGregor The Third to illustrate versatility

By Richard Evans

EVEN the most dyed-in-the-wool National Hunt followers could find themselves confused when the first Sporting Index Chase (3.35) starts at Cheltenham tomorrow.

A specially designed course will offer a unique challenge to the 14 runners as they tackle 27 obstacles which derive as much from the world of eventing as from traditional steeplechasing. Ditches and banks, rails and water, stuffed hurdles, a double bank with hedges and even a replica of Aintree's Canal Turn are among the hazards facing horse and rider over the three-mile trip.

The cross-country steeplechase, which weaves in and out of the new and old racecourses at Cheltenham, will demand dexterity as well as speed, and the form book is likely to be of little use in identifying the winner. It's A Snip, the Charlie Mann-trained winner of the Velka Pardubicka, should feel at ease while Docklands Express, the former Whitbread Gold Cup winner part-owned by Compton Hellyer, the chairman of the sponsors, has been specifically prepared for this race.

Mouse's Sister was third in the inaugural Marlborough Cup staged last spring over a similar course, but for those intent on having a bet **McGregor The Third** makes considerable appeal. This former eventer, now trained by Gordon Richards, was unextended when winning novice chases at Carlisle and Newcastle during the past five weeks and should enjoy himself here.

Talbot made enormous strides last season and Charlie Egerton appears to have found the ideal opportunity for him to open his account this season in the Food Brokers Handicap Chase (1.50). The nine-year-old is undoubtedly suited by some give in the ground and any more rain would enhance his chance.

The Stakis Casinos November Novices' Chase (2.25) sees the eagerly awaited debut over fences of Callisoe Bay. Despite being on the weak side last term, he won two novice hurdles and showed useful form when second in the Tolworth Hurdle at Sandown and fifth in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle at the Festival meeting here in March. The Oliver Sherwood trained six-year-old looks just the type to make into a chaser, but he faces a tough task on his seasonal reappearance as his four rivals all have the advantage of having had at least one outing.

Fitness, and the promise shown over fences by **Cumbrian Challenge**, could give Peter Easterby's novice the edge on this occasion. The form of his chasing debut at Wetherby three weeks ago has been boosted by the useful runner-up, Addington Boy, who subsequently recorded an impressive 15-length success at Kelso on Thursday.

The Chemist Brokers Novices' Handicap Hurdle (3.00) looks far from punter-friendly but the five-year-old **Apachee Flower** appears leniently weighted, having won an admittedly moderate race at Uttoxeter nine days ago by nine lengths. She can follow up at the main expense of San Giorgio and Samlee.

TELEVISED RACES TOMORROW

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: CHICODARI
(4.10 Cheltenham tomorrow)
Next best: Talbot
(1.50 Cheltenham tomorrow)

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INSTANT PRIZES UP TO £2,200 — LONGEST WORD WINS £5,000

Play £75,000 Scrabble

For the next two weeks, you can play our new £75,000 Scrabble game using the numbers printed in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*.

Numbers will be printed in *The Times* everyday. Printed below is the final set of numbers to play Game B in *The Times* only. More numbers will appear on Monday.

There is a £5,000 jackpot to be won every week when you play our Longest Word game, FORESTALLED, by using letters you reveal from *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*.

There are two ways to play for prizes:
1. Printed below are the final two numbers which you should scratch off on *The Times* Game B grid on your Scrabble gamecard today.
Do not scratch any other numbers.
By scratching the numbers you will reveal two letters. Using only the letters revealed on Game B, see if you can match any words on the Scrabble board. Each letter you have revealed can only be used once. If you can match a word on the board, you have won a prize and must make a claim today.
2. LONGEST WORD GAME. You can use any combination of the letters revealed this week on *The Sunday Times* Game 2 and *The Times* Game B to make the word FORESTALLED. If you succeed, ring the Scrabble hotline to make a claim for this week's £5,000 prize.

If more than one valid claim is made for a prize, the money will be shared equally among the claimants.

GAME B PRIZE WINNERS
The £2,200 prize (PRIZE) was shared by Mrs P Yates of Fordingbridge, Hampshire; Mr D Brinicombe of Fareham, Hampshire and Mr C Kenny of Chiddingfold, Surrey.

SPEAR'S GAMES

THESE ARE THE NUMBERS TO SCRATCH OFF GAME B ON YOUR *TIMES* CARD

135 126

HOW TO CLAIM

If you reveal all the letters of any word from Game B of your Scrabble gamecard, claim your prize by calling the Scrabble hotline on 0171-887 0406 today, between 9.30am and 3pm. Have your gamecard with you when you claim.
Late claims will not be accepted.

RUNNERS AND RIDERS AT CHELTENHAM TOMORROW

THUNDERER

1.15 Zaitoon
1.50 Talbot
2.25 Callisoe Bay
3.00 Apachee Flower
3.35 Docklands Express (nap)
4.10 Danjing

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
1.50 DESERT RUN.

GOING: GOOD SIS

1.15 ARMISTICE DAY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,337: 2m 110yd) (12 runners)

101 410162- BOLD ACRE 18F (S) (Mrs M Morgan) D Burchell 5-12-0 J Prior (5) 88
102 01351-2 SOPHISM 17 (D,BF,F,G,S) (A Lomas) M Pipe 6-11-11 D Burrows (5) [illegible]
103 0331-F5 ZAITOON 15 (B,D,F,G) (Cheltenham Racing Ltd) D Nicholson 4-11-11 R Johnson 93
104 20120- BLACKPATCH HILL 256 (D,S) (J Bradbury) N Tinkler 6-11-10 E Husband 92
105 106- FOODBROKER STAR 193 (D,S) (Food Brokers Ltd) J Gifford 5-11-9 L Aspell 90
106 14/F341 WINDWARD ARIOM 8 (D,F,G,S) (A Shaw) K Burke 5-11-8 A Larnach 91
107 266013- JENZSOPH 213F (S) (Supersel Two) P Hobbs 4-11-8 M Moran (5) –
108 014-0 TWICE THE GROOM 36 (D,S) (M Fairbrother) R Lee 5-11-6 T Eley 92
109 6111-00 SYMBOL OF SUCCESS 11 (B,D,F,G) (N T Racing Synd) D Williams 4-11-5 M Clarke (5) 90
110 13- RADIB 208 (D,G) (A Kidd, A Johnson) P Rachens 4-11-5 S Fox 84
111 /32/00- FUNAMBULIEN 191 (CD,F,G) (Mrs J Green) N Walker 8-10-13 Guy Lewis –
112 1231F-0 SALISONG 23 (D,G,S) (J Whyte) J Whyte 6-10-0 C Rae (5) –

Long handicap: Salisong 9-7

BETTING: 3-1 Windward Ariom, 4-1 Sophism, 9-2 Foodbroker Star, 7-1 Zaitoon, 8-1 Bold Acre, 10-1 Blackpatch Hill, Jenzsoph, 16-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING MEETING

1.50 FOOD BROKERS HANDICAP CHASE
C4

(£5,061: 3m 1f) (10 runners)

201 111200- MELEAGRIS 204 (F,G,S) (D Jackson) D Nicholson 11-12-0 A Maguire 96
202 11/1122- TALBOT 239 (G,S) (J Dean) C Egerton 9-11-11 J Osborne 97
203 U-1U261 TUG OF PEACE 8 (D,F,G,S) (P Richardson) G Balding 8-11-3 A P McCoy 95
204 2F6111- MUGONI BEACH 177 (F,G,S) (J Ennis) M Pipe 10-11-2 D Bridgwater 90
205 F43665/ STUNNING STUFF 597 (F,G) (G Gleadell) T George 10-10-10 D Bentley –
206 P515-22 DESERT RUN 15 (S) (The Reynolds Family) P Nicholls 7-10-2 M A Fitzgerald [illegible]
207 341/FF3- VISAGA 321 (D,F,S) (L Hellstenius) N Twiston-Davies 9-10-0 C Maude 98
208 2131-41 STOP THE WALLER 36 (G,S) (R Burgan) M Eames 6-10-0 A Dobbin 95
209 2120FP: FLORIDA SKY 572 (S) (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 8-10-0 G Bradley –
210 01U-02F TIME ENOUGH 8 (S) (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 6-10-0 D Gallagher 86

Long handicap: Visaga 9-13, Stop The Waller 9-12, Florida Sky 9-10, Time Enough 9-3

BETTING: 5-2 Talbot, 3-1 Mugoni Beach, 4-1 Tug Of Peace, 6-1 Meleagris, 10-1 Desert Run, 12-1 Stop The Waller, 14-1 Visaga, 25-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

MELEAGRIS best effort last season neck 2nd of 8 to Well Briefed in handicap chase at Newbury (3m, good). TALBOT demoted to 2nd, beat A N C Express head in novice handicap chase at Uttoxeter (3m 2f, soft). TUG OF PEACE beat Bas De Laine head in limited handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, good to firm). MUGONI BEACH beat Sachin Banes [illegible] in 7-runner novice chase at Stratford (3m 5f 110yd, good). DESERT RUN 6l 2nd of 5 to Far Senior in handicap chase at Warwick (3m 2f, good). STOP THE WALLER beat TUG OF PEACE (11-5 better off) 1½l in 5-runner handicap chase at Bangor (3m 110yd, good to soft).
Selection: TALBOT

2.25 STAKIS CASINOS NOVEMBER NOVICES CHASE
C4

(Grade II: £10,940: 2m) (5 runners)

301 20-1212 CABLE BEACH 34 (D,F,G) (H Stanley, M Cunningham (Ire)) 6-11-4 A Maguire –
302 4-11250- CALLISOE BAY 220 (G,S) (R Waters) O Sherwood 6-11-0 J Osborne –
303 06-1U12 CAPTAIN KHEDIVE 24 (D,F,G,S) (Khedive Partners) P Nicholls 7-11-0 A P McCoy [illegible]
304 03260-1 CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE 21 (D,F,G,S) (Cumbrian Ind Ltd) M H Easterby 6-11-0 L Wyer 95
305 P41P-12 GO BALLISTIC 22 (BF,G,S) (Mrs B Lockhart) [illegible] 6-11-0 M A Fitzgerald –

BETTING: 11-10 Callisoe Bay, 3-1 Cumbrian Challenge, 5-1 Go Ballistic, 7-1 Cable Beach, 8-1 Captain Khedive

FORM FOCUS

CABLE BEACH ¾l 2nd of 4 to Sea Gale in listed novice chase at Roscommon (2m, good). CALLISOE BAY best effort 11l 2nd of 5 to Silver Wedge in the grade 1 [illegible] Securities Tolworth Hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, soft). CAPTAIN KHEDIVE neck 2nd of 4 to Reve En Rose in novice chase at Hereford (2m, good to firm). CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE beat Addington Boy 2l in 5-runner novice chase at Wetherby (2m, good to firm). GO BALLISTIC 2l 2nd of 4 to Lead Vocalist in handicap hurdle at Worcester (3m 4f, good).
Selection: CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE

3.00 CHEMIST BROKERS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
C4

(£4,856: 3m 2f) (10 runners)

401 45R2-2 SAMLEE 17 (BF) (S Martin) P Hobbs 6-11-12 G Tormey (3) 81
402 0263-12 STORMTRACKER 8 (BF,F) (T Davis) C Weedon 6-11-1 Peter Hobbs 82
403 0P03-0 BENDOR MARK 8 (C Courage) M Williams 6-11-0 R Supple 85
404 14 BLESSED OLIVER 8 (F) (Mrs D Plunkett) N Twiston-Davies 5-10-6 C Maude 94
405 P33P-12 SAN GIORGIO 39 (BF,F) (P Nelson) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-5 T Jenks 91
406 404/241 APACHEE FLOWER 9 (G) (Miss K Scorsby) H Howe 5-10-2 A P McCoy [illegible]
407 00P-531 CLASH OF CYMBALS 18 (G) (Wiltshire Partners) J Moore 5-10-0 A Maguire 97
408 6460-0 JIMMY'S FANCY 15 (S Jones) Mrs S Williams 7-10-0 S McNeill 98
409 U44P OLD DEER PARK 575P (G) (Mrs S Jones) P Jones 5-10-0 Mr J Culloty (7) –
410 0PPP: CASTLE WARRIOR 662 (Miss V Pocock) L Grassick 6-10-0 Mr J Grassick –

Long handicap: Jimmy's Fancy 9-13, Old Deer Park 9-6, Castle Warrior 8-3

BETTING: 2-1 Samlee, 5-2 Stormtracker, 5-1 San Giorgio, 6-1 Blessed Oliver, 8-1 Apachee Flower, 10-1 others

FORM FOCUS

SAMLEE 4l 2nd to Swing Quartet in maiden hurdle at Stratford (2m 6f 110yd, good). STORMTRACKER 4l 3rd of 7 to Coulin Loch in novice handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good to firm) with BLESSED OLIVER (7lb better off) 2l 4th. SAN GIORGIO neck 2nd of 7 to Secret Bid in novice handicap hurdle at Towcester (3m, good to firm). APACHEE FLOWER beat Tiny 6l in maiden hurdle at Stratford (3m 110yd, good). CLASH OF CYMBALS beat The Reprobate [illegible] in maiden hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f, good).
Selection: APACHEE FLOWER

3.35 SPORTING INDEX CHASE
C4

(Cross country chase: £7,003: 3m) (14 runners)

501 1-3122-0 DOCKLANDS EXPRESS 11 (D,F,G,S) (R Barnes) K Bailey 13-11-11 J Osborne [illegible]
502 6340-41 ITS A SNIP 35 (B,G,S) (The Icy Fire Partnership) C Mann 10-11-5 A Maguire 50
503 11 MCGREGOR THE THIRD 25 (D,F) (Mrs D Whitaker) G Richards 9-10-13 B Harding 65
504 3PP10P TAUREAN TYCOON 62 (V,F,G,S) (D Williams) D Williams 11-10-13 A Larnach 50
505 40P31P- VIVA BELLA 227 (B,D,G,S) (L Froomes) Mrs S Bramall 8-10-13 Mr K Whelan 68
506 /31/UPP- BOTTLE BLACK 223 (S) (Miss K George) J White 8-10-10 Mr R Lawther –
507 510623 LLEWIN 23 (F,G,S) (Mobex Packaging Ltd) M Ahern 8-10-10 M Ahern 50
508 5P3P-15 LONGSHOREMAN 64 (F,S) (Mrs A Barclay) Mrs A Barclay 8-10-10 S Joynes 50
509 302-054 BAGOUT 439 (B) (J Lampier) G Heymans 6-10-7 S Claessens –
510 5/P0345- FIDDLERS PIKE 339 (D,S) Mrs R Henderson 14-10-7 Mrs R Henderson –
511 00/2300- LEAGAUNE 199 (D,S) (Mrs A Smurfit) J McConnochie 13-10-7 S McNeill 50
512 P30/B2 LIVE AND LET LIVE 9 (V) (Mrs C Greig) Miss L Russell 11-10-7 Mr C Storey 50
513 52/P- MR MURRHILL 297 (B,S) (J Hackett) J Hackett 14-10-7 Mr W Ewing –
514 52/P- MOUSE'S SISTER 281P (R Nuttall) P Nicholls 10-10-2 Mr R Nuttall –

BETTING: 7-4 McGregor The Third, 5-2 Docklands Express, 6-1 Its A Snip, 8-1 Mouse's Sister, 14-1 others

FORM FOCUS

DOCKLANDS EXPRESS best effort last season 15l 2nd to Lucky Light in handicap chase at Ascot (3m 110yd, good). ITS A SNIP beat Vinin 1½l in chase at Pardubice (4m 2f 110yd, soft). MCGREGOR THE THIRD beat Coup De Catherine 25l in novice chase at Newcastle (3m, firm). TAUREAN TYCOON beat Columcille ¾l in novice chase at Hereford (3m 1f 110yd, firm). VIVA BELLA beat Diamond Fort ¾l in chase at Hexham (4m, heavy).
Selection: DOCKLANDS EXPRESS

4.10 RODBOROUGH JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(3-Y-O: £2,780: 2m 110yd) (14 runners)

601 1 SHINING EDGE 15 (D,F) (G Graham) M H Easterby 11-6 L Wyer 93
602 3140 YACHT 23 (F) (C Nugent) C Mann 11-6 M A Fitzgerald 84
603 BACKVIEW 26F (E O'Malley) B Llewellyn 11-0 Mr J L Llewellyn –
604 3 BIRTHDAY BOY 8 (T Pearson) J Jenkins 11-0 R Supple 94
605 2 CHICODARI 38 (BF) (Brig C Harvey) D Nicholson 11-0 A Maguire [illegible]
606 DANJING 31F (R Green (Fine Paintings)) O Sherwood 11-0 J Osborne –
607 ENGLISH GARDEN (Miss J Broadhurst) N Twiston-Davies 11-0 T Jenks –
608 FORESTAL 387F (S Griffiths) S Griffiths 11-0 R Johnson (5) –
609 5 HONG KONG DESIGNER 38 (Group 1 Racing (1994) Ltd) A James 11-0 A P McCoy 79
610 TALK BACK 125F (V McCalla) Miss H Knight 11-0 J F Titley –
611 TORCH VERT 29F (P Green) N Walker 11-0 J Railton –
612 3 TOSHIBA TALK 36 (Toshiba (UK) Ltd) B Ellison 11-0 D Bentley 97
613 0P TOSKANO 15 (Berkshire Components Ltd) D Williams 11-0 G Bradley –
614 LAST LAUGH 26F (Charles Eden Ltd) M Pipe 10-9 D Bridgwater –

BETTING: 5-2 Shining Edge, 3-1 Chicodari, 4-1 Last Laugh, 6-1 Danjing, 8-1 Birthday Boy, 10-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rns	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
N Tinkler	4	15	26.7	A P McCoy	7	27	25.9
K Bailey	21	83	25.3	A Maguire	25	173	14.5
D Nicholson	34	159	21.4	J Osborne	21	146	14.4
O Sherwood	11	66	16.7	D Bridgwater	11	83	13.3

FONTWELL PARK TOMORROW

THUNDERER

1.00 Dramatic Event. 1.30 Drumstick. 2.05 Sassiver. 2.40 Frozen Drop. 3.15 No Pain No Gain. 3.50 Flight Lieutenant.

GOING: GOOD SIS

1.00 TOTE MULTIBET SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,093: 2m 2f) (11 runners)

1 /60- HAWTHORNE GLEN 367 (F) Mrs M Long 8-12-0 B Fenton (5)
2 -33F BISHOPS CASTLE 12 (G) R Frost 7-11-13 J Frost
3 20-2 DELIFFIN 18 (G) R Flower 9-11-7 P Hide
4 2FPF STRIDING EDGE 13 (V,F,G) R O'Sullivan 10-11-4 D O'Sullivan
5 00/3 DRAMATIC EVENT 11 (G) J Moore 10-11-3 W McFarland
6 632/ BETALONGABILL 733 M Madgwick 6-11-0 J Kavanagh
7 -354 ROGER'S PAL 13 (G,S) A Moore 8-10-13 B Powell
8 30P- KNYAZ 234 (V,D,S) Mrs L Richards 5-10-11 M Richards
9 2/04 SANDRO 18 (B,CD,F,G,S) Miss L Bower 6-10-6 L Harvey
10 040/ L'ENCHERE 710 (F,G) T Clement 10-10-2 N Mann
11 P-0P CLOD HOPPER 17 Mrs H Parrott 5-10-0 Philip Hughes (7)

5-2 Deliffin, 7-2 Betalongabill, 9-2 Dramatic Event, 7-1 Bishops Castle, Roger's Pal, 10-1 Hawthorne Glen, 12-1 Sandro, 16-1 others.

1.30 TOTE CREDIT HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,825: 2m 2f) (5)

1 1214 PHILIP'S WOODY 22 (B,F,G) N Henderson 7-11-10 J Kavanagh
2 44F2 DRUMSTICK 2 (CD,F,G,S) K Bailey 9-11-9 T J Murphy (3)
3 61-2 THE CARROT MAN 75 (G) P Winkworth 7-10-9 P Hide
4 -135 CLEAR IDEA 11 (F,G) R Frost 7-10-9 J Frost
5 1113 POLDEN PRIDE 12 (F) G Balding 7-10-9 B Clifford

7-4 Polden Pride, 11-4 The Carrot Man, 7-2 Philip's Woody, 6-1 others.

2.05 TOTE LADIES IN RED HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,548: 2m 6f) (9)

1 -212 PAMPILLO 36 (C,BF,G,S) G Balding 7-12-0 Mr A Balding (7)
2 14P- NORTHERN VILLAGE 162 (CD,F,G) S Dow 8-11-13 A Dicken
3 33-1 WEE WINDY 11 (F,G,S) J Gifford 6-11-11 P Hide
4 0-31 LEAD VOCALIST 22 (G,S) R Rowe 6-11-5 D O'Sullivan
5 25-3 TIME FOR A FLUTTER 26 (G) C James 6-10-13 Mr E James
6 6633 SCRIPT 8 (F) J Jenkins 4-10-9 B Powell
7 1-14 SASSIVER 15 (F,G) P Kelleway 5-10-4 J Ryan
8 4P0/ DURRINGTON 571 (S) M Bolton 9-10-0 B Clifford
9 35-2 DUNLIR 13 (F) P Rodford 5-10-0 S Burrough

9-4 Wee Windy, 3-1 Lead Vocalist, 4-1 Pampillo, 9-2 Sassiver, 10-1 Time For A Flutter, 12-1 Northern Village, 14-1 Script, 20-1 others.

2.40 TOTE BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,825: 3m 2f 110yd) (6)

1 40-P ANNIO CHILONE 11 (B,D,G,S) J Gifford 9-11-10 P Hide
2 5/P- SUFFOLK ROAD 227 (G,S) R Rowe 8-11-8 D O'Sullivan
3 1123 FROZEN DROP 21 (CD,F,G) P Bowens 8-10-12 A Tory
4 -613 GREEN WALK 18 (F) R Rowe 8-10-0 D Carson (7)
5 3-U1 EQUITY PLAYER 8 (F,G,S) R Curtis 10-10-0 D Morris
6 0-00 MASTER COMEDY 23 (B,CD,F) Miss L Bower 11-10-0 L Harvey

5-4 Equity Player, 3-1 Green Walk, Frozen Drop, 8-1 Annio Chilone, 10-1 others.

3.15 BET WITH THE TOTE NOVICES CHASE
(£3,548: 2m 3f) (8)

1 4-16 HAWAIIAN YOUTH 13 (BF,F,G,S) R Rowe 7-11-6 D O'Sullivan
2 0B0- CALL ME RIVER 199 P Hedger 7-11-0 M Richards
3 5/30 CANDLE KING 11 (G) H Manners 7-11-0 Mr A Charles-Jones
4 353- HIGHLAND FLAME 167 (G) A Blackmore 6-11-0 G Hogan (5)
5 406- LO-FLYING MISSILE 227 R Dickin 7-11-0 B Powell
6 16-B NO PAIN NO GAIN 9 (G,S) J Gifford 7-11-0 P Hide
7 /F3- POLICEMANS PRIDE 365 M Madgwick 6-11-0 D Morris
8 1401 TELMAR SYSTEMS 39 (F,G) J White 6-11-0 P McLoughlin

7-4 Hawaiian Youth, 5-2 Telmar Systems, 4-1 No Pain No Gain, 7-1 Policemans Pride, 8-1 Highland Flame, 14-1 Candle King, 20-1 others

3.50 TOTE PLACEPOT MAIDEN HURDLE
(£3,029: 2m 2f) (12)

1 P BAY BOB 13 T Casey 6-11-0 J A McCarthy
2 /33- FLIGHT LIEUTENANT 57F T Casey 6-11-0 E Murphy
3 3 FROZEN SEA 43 G Enright 4-11-0 J Kavanagh
4 60-0 HOLIDAY ISLAND 13 (V) P Butler 6-11-0 M Griffiths (7)
5 0- KEY PLAYER 246 R Rowe 6-11-0 D O'Sullivan
6 333/ MR JERVIS 571 J Gifford 6-11-0 P Hide
7 600- NIGHT IN A MILLION 151F S Woodman 4-11-0 A Thornton
8 F0- RUN HENRY RUN 236 J Gifford 5-11-0 P Hide
9 0P SOMMARIVA STAR 10 R Harris 5-11-0 DOUBTFUL
10 3/0- WILL I FLY 359 (F) Mrs M Long 9-11-0 B Fenton (5)
11 0 NICK THE GOLD 23 A Moore 4-10-9 B Powell
12 420- ROSIE-B 213 R Stronge 5-10-9 S Lyons (3)

9-4 Flight Lieutenant, 7-2 Frozen Sea, 9-2 Night In A Million, 11-2 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: K Bailey, 8 winners from 20 runners, 40.0%; Mrs L Richards, 4 from 16, 25.0%; J Moore, 7 from 31, 22.6%; J White, 16 from 73, 21.9%; R O'Sullivan, 10 from 46, 21.7%.

JOCKEYS: J Frost, 15 winners from 75 rides, 20.0%; P Hide, 11 from 57, 19.3%; E Murphy, 9 from 47, 19.1%; A Tory, 9 from 48, 18.8%; M Richards, 11 from 67, 16.4%; J Kavanagh, 6 from 42, 14.3%.

WINDSOR

THUNDERER

12.30 Rushaway. 1.00 No Pattern. 1.30 Olympian. 2.00 Iron N Gold. 2.35 Nothing Doing. 3.05 Go Universal. 3.40 Nahla. 4.10 Northern Trial.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (CHASE COURSE); GOOD (HURDLES) SIS

12.30 MITIE GROUP NOVICES HURDLE
(Div I: £2,320: 2m) (12 runners)

1 CANARY FALCON 14F John Berry 4-10-12 V Smith
2 5 CHIEFTAIN'S CROWN 28 J White 4-10-12 P McLoughlin
3 P0- CLARION CALL 180F G Thorner 4-10-12 Guy Lewis (3)
4 /4F- GENERAL TONIC 317 D Gandolfo 8-10-12 Sophie Mitchell (5)
5 HATTA SUNSHINE 82F A Moore 5-10-12 T Grantham
6 JAAZIM 64F M Madgwick 5-10-12 D Morris
7 00-0 MEADOW KING 83 J King 5-10-12 G Upton
8 F MONTEGO REEF 35 K Burke 5-10-12 A Larnach (3)
9 00- ROBERO 276 Mrs J Pitman 4-10-12 R Farrant
10 RUSHAWAY 171F Miss C Johnsey 4-10-12 D Gallagher
11 0PP- THUNDEROUS 347 J Bridger 4-10-12 D O'Sullivan
12 RELKOWEN A Turnell 5-10-7 S McNeill

4-1 General Tonic, 6-1 Relkowen, Robero, 7-1 Chieftain's Crown, Hatta Sunshine, 10-1 Meadow King, 12-1 others.

1.00 ATLANTIC CONVOY JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £2,320: 2m) (15)

1 422 BASIL STREET 14 (B) C Mann 10-12 J Railton
2 BLUE CAPS BOY A Moore 10-12 I Lawrence
3 F5 COLT D'OR 22 (B) J White 10-12 P McLoughlin
4 HOWQUA RIVER 47F P Chapple-Hyam 10-12 T Grantham
5 ISM 44F W Hern 10-12 R Farrant
6 03 KILCORAN BAY 14 (V) I Balding 10-12 J F Titley
7 LAAL 149F M Baraclough 10-12 S McNeill
8 NO PATTERN 28F G L Moore 10-12 M Richards
9 BILLS PLOUGHGIRL 18F J Moore 10-7 W McFarland
10 DISSOLVE 389F N Lampard 10-7 G Upton
11 0 LADY WOODSTOCK 22 Miss A Embiricos 10-7 J Ryan
12 PEDALTOTHEMETAL 15F P Mitchell 10-7 G Tormey (3)
13 RAMSBURY RIDGE L Snook 10-7 A Thornton
14 0 SHADY DEED 22 J Hills 10-7 D Gallagher
15 SHANUKE 152F Mrs L Richards 10-7 J A McCarthy

7-2 Kilcoran Bay, 9-2 Ism, 6-1 Basil Street, 7-1 Howqua River, 8-1 Shady Deed, 12-1 Colt D'Or, No Pattern, 16-1 others.

1.30 PEACE RUBY ANNIVERSARY NOVICES CHASE (£3,020: 3m) (4)

1 03-1 OLYMPIAN 14 (B,F,G) Mrs L Murphy 8-11-8 M Richards
2 3-F3 LUCKY DOLLAR 21 (S) K Bailey 7-11-1 A Thornton
3 6-0R SO AUDACIOUS 11 (B) N Gaselee 7-11-1 R Davis
4 1-U2 GREY SMOKE 29 (S) Miss H Knight 5-10-13 J F Titley

11-10 Lucky Dollar, 11-8 Olympian, 10-1 So Audacious, 12-1 Grey Smoke.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Brooks, 4 winners from 12 runners, 33.3%; D Elsworth, 6 from 20, 30.0%; D Gandolfo, 3 from 14, 21.4%; Miss H Knight, 8 from 39, 20.5%; A Turnell, 4 from 22, 18.2%; K Bailey, 8 from 48, 16.7%.

JOCKEYS: D Gallagher, 3 winners from 14 rides, 21.4%; P Holley, 5 from 27, 18.5%; J Railton, 5 from 45, 11.1%; M Perrett, 4 from 36, 11.1%; S McNeill, 4 from 38, 10.5%. Only qualifiers.

2.00 ATLANTIC CONVOY JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £2,320: 2m) (14)

1 4R COURT NAP 22 S Mellor 10-12 N Mann
2 0 IRON N GOLD 22 A Moore 10-12 P Holley
3 MEMORY'S MUSIC 54F M Madgwick 10-12 D Morris
4 MORE BILLS 9F A Moore 10-12 I Lawrence
5 PORTSCATHO 31F Miss J Doyle 10-12 S Curran (3)
6 SILKS AND STUDS 39F (B) J White 10-12 P McLoughlin
7 UNITED FRONT 23F (B) R O'Sullivan 10-12 D O'Sullivan
8 2046 WANSTEAD 14 J Jenkins 10-12 J F Titley
9 BELLA SEDONA 42F Lady Herries 10-7 DOUBTFUL
10 BURNT SIENNA 18F J Moore 10-7 W McFarland
11 EQUILIBRIUM 45F J Hills 10-7 J Railton
12 MY DUTCH GIRL 45F Miss B Sanders 10-7 D Gallagher
13 OUR LITTLE LADY 28F J Banks 10-7 S Keightley
14 STONEHAM GIRL 41F P Butler 10-7 M Griffiths (7)

7-2 Court Nap, 4-1 Equilibrium, 6-1 United Front, 8-1 Wanstead, Silks And Studs, 10-1 Portscatho, 12-1 others

2.35 ARMISTICE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,303: 2m 4f) (7)

1 14P6 COUCHANT 14 (B,F,G) J White 4-11-10 D Gallagher
2 4422 DURSHAN 1 (V) J Jenkins 6-11-5 J F Titley
3 0P-0 WIXOE WONDER 17 M Bradstock 5-11-2 P Holley
4 PR-3 NOTHING DOING 5F W Musson 6-11-1 S Keightley
5 364- IZACOMIN 187 D Geraghty 6-10-6 J A McCarthy
6 25-6 IVYCHURCH 7 J Joseph 9-10-5 D Morris
7 -04P KING FOWLER 7 A Williams 5-10-0 DOUBTFUL

9-4 Wixoe Wonder, 3-1 Nothing Doing, 9-2 Durshan, Izacomin, 8-1 others

3.05 0990-11-11 45 ROYAL STAR & GARTER HOME HANDICAP CHASE (£4,453: 2m 5f) (6)

1 P/03 THE GLOW 28 (CD,G,S) D Elsworth 7-12-0 P Holley
2 F-0F SCOTONI 35 (F,G,S) R O'Sullivan 9-11-2 D O'Sullivan
3 -U11 GO UNIVERSAL 46 (D,F,G,S) C Brooks 7-11-1 D Gallagher
4 2-32 THE WHIP 12 (D,F,G,S) D Grissell 8-10-13 M Richards
5 P232 MINE'S AN ACE 17 (F,S) Mrs J Renfree-Barons 8-10-8 R Greene
6 6F1/ RAGLAN ROAD 558P (D,F,G,S) Miss A Embiricos 11-10-0 J Ryan

5-4 Go Universal, 3-1 Mine's An Ace, 7-2 The Whip, 5-1 The Glow, 12-1 others

3.40 MITIE GROUP NOVICES HURDLE
(Div II: £2,320: 2m) (11)

1 0/00 BLACK HILL 135 John Berry 6-10-12 I Lawrence
2 40/ ESPERER 165F J O'Donoghue 5-10-12 A Dicken
3 HARDING 18F S Mellor 4-10-12 M Perrett
4 32-D HAWAIIAN SAM 16 A Turnell 5-10-12 L Harvey
5 4- HERMITE DU MANOIR C Brooks 5-10-12 D Gallagher
6 HILLSWICK 168F J King 4-10-12 G Upton
7 0P0- KING'S GOLD 231F Mrs L Richards 5-10-12 M Richards
8 02-8 RYAN GIGGS 35 A Jarvis 4-10-12 P Morris (7)
9 P- STORMING ROY 316 A Turnell 5-10-12 S McNeill
10 221/ NAHLA 141F (S) Miss J S Doyle 5-10-7 S Curran (3)
11 53- PERHAPS 231 Miss H Knight 4-10-7 J F Titley

3-1 Nahla, 9-2 Hawaiian Sam, 5-1 Perhaps, Hermite Du Manoir, 7-1 others.

4.10 GALLANT FEW HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,849: 2m) (8)

1 222- NORDANSK 45F (CD,F,S) M Madgwick 6-11-10 D Morris
2 30F4 NORTHERN TRIAL 1 (V,D,F,G) K Burke 7-11-7 A Larnach (3)
3 00-0 LUCAYAN CAY 12 Mrs J Pitman 4-10-4 R Farrant
4 13/P RUN FAST FOR GOLD 11 (F) Miss H Knight 8-10-3 J F Titley
5 10-3 QUINTA ROYALE 14 (D,G) L Snook 8-10-1 A Thornton
6 05-0 PERSISTENT GUNNER 14 (D,G) R Hodges 5-10-0 W McFarland
7 4213 ARAMON 25 (B,D,BF,F) M Haynes 5-10-0 D Skyrme
8 00/0 ANLACE 16 S Mellor 6-10-0 M Perrett

3-1 Nordansk, 4-1 Lucayan Cay, 9-2 Run Fast For Gold, 5-1 Quinta Royale, 6-1 Northern Trial, 8-1 Aramon, 10-1 Persistent Gunner, 16-1 Anlace.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

7.00 Distinct Beauty. 7.30 Elly Fleetfoot. 8.00 Celestial Choir. 8.30 Little Ibnr. 9.00 Monkey Zanty. 9.30 Cuango.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 7.30 DOMITIA (nap). 8.00 Risky Romeo. 9.00 Learning Curve.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

7.00 ASH MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,775: 7f) (10 runners)

1 6005 ANGUS MCCOATUP 39 B McMahon 9-0 G Carter 4
2 00 FLAGSTAFF 52 G L Moore 9-0 S Whitworth 2
3 ALLSTARS DANCER T Naughton 8-9 J D Smith (5) 10
4 003 ARCADY 12 P Walwyn 8-9 R Hughes 1
5 BALMORAL PRINCESS J Peacock 8-9 Dale Gibson 8
6 0 DANGEROUS WATERS 25 P Murphy 8-9 R Waterfield (7) 6
7 60 DISTINCT BEAUTY 8 (B) W O'Gorman 8-9 Emma O'Gorman 7
8 0603 HONESTLY 14 B Smart 8-9 S Sanders 3
9 05 PATRIO 11 M Johnston 8-9 D McKeown 5
10 0 SWEET WILHELMINA 19 Lord Huntingdon 8-9 D Harrison 9

9-4 Arcady, 9-2 Patrio, 5-1 Angus McCoatup, Distinct Beauty, 11-2 others.

7.30 C BEECH & SONS STEEL LIMITED STAKES
(£2,085: 1m 4f) (12)

1 2133 MR BEAN 142J (CD,G) K Burke 5-9-7 J Tate 2
2 0-00 BOLD ACRE 18 (S) D Burchell 5-9-5 R Price 11
3 3150 DVORAK 18 (D,F) R Harris 4-9-5 A Mackay 1
4 1325 ROUSITTO 14 (CD,F,G,S) R Hollinshead 7-9-5 T Ives 10
5 5-60 CLAQUE 137 D Chapman 3-8-12 A Culhane 7
6 5226 KALAMATA 11 J Glover 3-8-12 S D Williams 9
7 5006 PHARLY REEF 115 D Burchell 3-8-12 J Quinn 3
8 2102 DOMITIA 18 (G) M Bell 3-8-9 M Fenton 8
9 0014 ELLY FLEETFOOT 137 (G) B Meehan 3-8-9 R Hughes 4
10 2320 COLOSSE 40 J Eyre 3-8-7 R Lappin 5
11 4003 DUCKING 18 J Fanshawe 3-8-7 D Harrison 6
12 6053 KNOTALLY WOOD 21 J Hills 3-8-7 M Henry (5) 12

4-1 Knotally Wood, 5-1 Ducking, 6-1 Mr Bean, 7-1 Domitia, Dvorak, 8-1 others.

8.00 KB (WESTERN) HANDICAP
(£2,905: 1m 100yd) (13)

1 1000 RISKY ROMEO 16 (D,F,G) G Bravery 3-9-13 M Fenton 9
2 6000 WENTBRIDGE LAD 7 (V,CD,F,G,S) P Evans 5-9-11 R Hughes 1
3 3040 PENGAMON 106 (F) H Collingridge 3-9-11 J Quinn 13
4 2004 LYFORD LAW 147 (G) J Gosden 3-9-8 T Ives 11
5 0500 CELESTIAL CHOIR 14 (C,D,F,G,S) J Eyre 5-9-6 K Fallon 10
6 2120 FAR AHEAD 18 (D,S) J Eyre 3-9-4 R Lappin 7
7 6403 RAMBO WALTZER 84 (G) S Norton 3-9-4 G Carter 3
8 3011 HEATHYARDS LADY 14 (CD,F,G) R Hollinshead 4-9-2 F Lynch (7) 6
9 0060 Q FACTOR 8 (S) D Haydn Jones 3-9-0 A Mackay 12
10 4006 TATIKA 123 G Wragg 5-8-12 G Milligan (7) 2
11 1604 DESERT INVADER 14 (C,D,G,S) D Chapman 4-8-11 A Culhane 4
12 4450 POLONEZ PRIMA 96 (D,F,G) J Spearing 8-8-10 A McGlone 5
13 2000 SANDMOOR DENIM 39 (CD,F,G,S) S Bowring 8-8-10 S Webster 8

5-1 Heathyards Lady, 11-2 Wentbridge Lad, 6-1 Sandmoor Denim, 13-2 Rambo Waltzer, 7-1 Celestial Choir, 8-1 Far Ahead, 10-1 others.

8.30 DAILY STAR TOP TIPSTER HANDICAP
(£5,654: 6f) (13)

1 1114 CROFT POOL 7 (D,F,G) J Glover 4-10-0 S D Williams 10
2 1200 SAILORMAITE 56 (CD,G,S) S Bowring 4-9-13 S Webster 4
3 4330 CASTEL ROSSELO 154 (D,F,G,S) R Harris 5-9-11 A Mackay 13
4 1432 STOPPES BROW 26 (V,D,F,G) G L Moore 3-9-10 S Whitworth 9
5 -100 ASHGORE 56 (CD,F,G) M Johnston 5-9-9 J Fanning 1
6 2010 LITTLE IBNR 7 (CD,F,G) P Evans 4-9-9 K Fallon 7
7 0010 INHERENT MAGIC 35 (BF,G,S) W Muir 6-9-9 S Sanders 6
8 0300 MR BERGERAC 26 (D,F,S) B Palling 4-9-9 T Sprake 5
9 0003 LOVEYDOUMILLIONS 22 (B,D,F,S) M Johnston 3-9-7 D McKeown 8
10 0601 ELLE SHAPED 7 (F,G) A Bailey 5-9-6 D Wright (3) 3
11 1000 CRYSTAL LOOP 44 (CD,F,G) A Bailey 3-9-2 G Bardwell 12
12 6230 NORDAN RAIDER 56 (D,F,G,S) M Camacho 7-9-1 L Charnock 2
13 4804 LEIGH CROFTER 5 (B,C,D,F,G,S) P Cundell 6-9-0 D Griffiths (5) 11

5-2 Croft Pool, 4-1 Mr Bergerac, 5-1 Elle Shaped, 8-1 Little Ibnr, 12-1 Inherent Magic, 14-1 Leigh Crofter, 16-1 Loveyoumillions, 20-1 others.

9.00 SILVER BIRCH SELLING STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,085: 5f) (13)

1 3216 ABBOTT OF WHALLEY 131 (BF,G) M Wane 9-2 L Charnock 9
2 4210 DON'T TELL ANYONE 16 (CD,G) J Berry 9-2 P Fessey (5) 1
3 0400 FINISTERRE 9 J J O'Neill 8-11 D McKeown 3
4 0034 MULLAGH HILL LAD 16 (BF) B McMahon 8-11 G Carter 8
5 400P DEEDEEJAY 53 (V) J Bradley 8-6 A Mackay 6
6 4202 FRANCES MARY 9 (B) C Fairhurst 8-6 J Tate 2
7 0 LEARNING CURVE 5 M Prescott 8-6 C Nutter 10
8 0 MADAM PIGTAILS 182 P McBride 8-6 J Quinn 13
9 2040 MONKEY ZANTY 54 J Berry 8-6 C Lowther (7) 12
10 0230 POLY BY STAUFAN 18 M Channon 8-6 Candy Morris 7
11 5550 POPPY MY LOVE 26 R Harris 8-6 D Biggs 4
12 060 STATIC LOVE 24 T Clement 8-6 J Fanning 5
13 4304 TOUCH OF FANTASY 42 C Dwyer 8-6 N Varley (3) 11

7-2 Frances Mary, 5-1 Abbott Of Whalley, Poly By Staufan, 6-1 Don't Tell Anyone, 8-1 Finisterre, Monkey Zanty, 12-1 others.

9.30 VACUUM FURNACE ENGINEERING HANDICAP (£2,085: 1m 6f 166yd) (12)

1 0300 MOWLAIE 9 (F) D Chapman 4-10-0 A Culhane 11
2 5226 PREMIER DANCE 28 (CD,F,G) D Haydn Jones 8-9-12 D Wright (3) 3
3 3310 CUANGO 9 (F,G,S) R Hollinshead 4-9-7 K Fallon 8
4 4424 ENVIRONMENTALIST 5 (S) R Harris 4-9-5 A Mackay 5
5 6205 NAUTICAL JEWEL 45 M Usher 3-8-13 R Price 1
6 5130 BALLYMAC GIRL 9 (D,BF,G,S) J Bradley 7-8-12 L Charnock 4
7 5304 HARRY WELSH 16 (B,F) K McAuliffe 3-8-12 J Tate 7
8 2342 TREMENDISTO 9 J Wilson 5-8-11 P Fessey (5) 9
9 2000 AWESTRUCK 1 (B,C,F,G,S) B Preece 5-8-6 V Slattery 6
10 4001 MILNGAVIE 5 (B,CD,F,G,S) M Johnston 5-8-1 (5ex) N Adams 12
11 1333 GREEK NIGHT OUT 5 (F,G) J Eyre 4-7-13 N Varley (3) 2
12 4060 JARROW 56 Mrs A Naughton 4-7-9 J Quinn 10

9-2 Greek Night Out, 5-1 Cuango, 11-2 Milngavie, 6-1 Harry Welsh, 7-1 Ballymac Girl, 8-1 Environmentalist, Nautical Jewel, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: G Wragg, 4 winners from 7 runners, 57.1%; J Gosden, 4 from 10, 40.0%; M Johnston, 28 from 101, 27.7%; Lord Huntingdon, 14 from 60, 23.3%; J Glover, 7 from 33, 21.2%.

JOCKEYS: P J Fessey, 3 winners from 13 rides, 23.1%; J Tate, 7 from 36, 19.4%; T Ives, 18 from 105, 17.1%; G Carter, 17 from 109, 15.6%; K Fallon, 4 from 26, 15.4%; S Whitworth, 8 from 60, 13.3%.

MARKET RASEN

THUNDERER

12.50 Forcing Two. 1.20 Cumbrian Rhapsody. 1.50 Garrylough. 2.20 Sounds Fyne. 2.55 Gilpa Valu. 3.25 Bone Setter. 3.55 Peace Lord.

GOING: GOOD SIS

12.50 CLUGSTON DAY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,891: 2m 1f 110yd) (8 runners)

1 23-P DEEP DAWN 16 (B,S) S Clark 12-12-0 Miss R Clark (7)
2 40UP FORCING TWO 10 N Twiston-Davies 4-10-9 C Maude
3 006- LAMBSON 208 (G) J Pearce 8-10-8 M Brennan
4 P/F0 LITTLE BLACKFOOT 38 J L Harris 7-10-4 A S Smith
5 -P4F MERRYHILL MADAM 8 P Bradley 6-10-3 T Eley
6 0P-5 QUICK DECISION 8 (V) J Cresswell 4-10-2 R Massey (5)
7 060 KAJOSTAR 21 S Campion 5-10-0 L Wyer
8 0P-0 TARO CARD 64 R Woodhouse 4-10-0 L O'Hara

9-4 Lambson, 3-1 Merryhill Madam, 7-2 Forcing Two, 6-1 Little Blackfoot, 8-1 Quick Decision, 10-1 Taro Card, 16-1 others.

1.20 CLUGSTON MAIDEN HURDLE
(£3,267: 2m 1f 110yd) (19)

1 4 ABSALOM'S PILLAR 38 J Mackie 5-11-0 T Eley
2 0- AUGUSTAN 73F S Gollings 4-11-0 J Magee (3)
3 0 AWESOME VENTURE 14 M Chapman 5-11-0 W Worthington
4 BARDSKI 28F J L Harris 4-11-0 A S Smith
5 0P- CURRENT SPEECH 41F M H Easterby 4-11-0 F Leahy (3)
6 0- DEVON CASTLE 394 J Curtis 5-11-0 L O'Hara
7 55- DUGORT STRAND 178 O Brennan 4-11-0 M Brennan
8 FARANDOLE 746F O Brennan 5-11-0 Mr A Walton
9 20D/ HAUGHTON LAD 527F J Parkes 6-11-0 R McCarthy (7)
10 P/54 MODEST HOPE 9 B Richmond 8-11-0 B Dalton
11 PRIZEFIGHTER 35F J Eyre 4-11-0 O Pears
12 5P06 SPORTING SPIRIT 8 G Kelly 5-11-0 Mr C Mulhall
13 354/ SUNKALA SHINE 637 J Fitzgerald 7-11-0 E Callaghan (7)
14 65-U THROWER 37 (BF) B Preece 4-11-0 G Hogan (5)
15 000- VAN DER GRASS 361 P Calver 6-11-0 G Lyons
16 P WILD BROOK 15 Mrs S Bramall 5-11-0 Mr K Whelan (5)
17 2- CUMBRIAN RHAPSODY 42F M H Easterby 5-10-9 L Wyer
18 00/3 KILNAMARTYRA GIRL 14 J Parkes 5-10-9 R Bellamy
19 2PP3 WORDYS WAR 22 L Wordingham 4-10-9 R Massey (5)

3-1 Cumbrian Rhapsody, 4-1 Current Speech, 5-1 Sunkala Shine, 7-1 others.

1.50 EBF TATTERSALLS IRELAND NOVICES CHASE (Mares: £3,522: 2m 1f 110yd) (6)

1 1-16 REVE EN ROSE 10 (F,G) M McMillan 9-11-3 L Wyer
2 -140 SHULTAN 107 (F) J Wade 6-11-3 K Jones
3 3U2- CHORUS LINE 196P (G) P Beaumont 6-10-12 M Brennan
4 043/ DANTE'S DELIGHT 574P P Jones 7-10-12 G Hogan
5 265- GARRYLOUGH 231 (G) D Gandolfo 6-10-12 D Leahy
6 03P- TITAN EMPRESS 234 (S) S Mellor 6-10-12 Chris Webb

6-4 Garrylough, 3-1 Reve En Rose, 5-1 Titan Empress, 6-1 Shultan, 10-1 others.

2.20 CONSORT TRAVEL HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,784: 3m) (8)

1 -280 COUTURE STOCKINGS 35 (D,F,G,S) J Mackie 11-11-13 T Eley
2 D/P- STORM DRUM 450 (B,D,F,G,S) K Bailey 6-11-9 J Magee (3)
3 4141 GEORGE ASHFORD 8 (F) K Morgan 5-11-5 A S Smith
4 2120 FREDDIE MUCK 44 (F) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-4 D Walsh (5)
5 111- FAR OUT 165 (F,S) O Brennan 9-11-0 M Brennan
6 501- SOUNDS FYNE 210 (F,S) J Fitzgerald 6-10-13 E Callaghan (7)
7 012U MASTER OF THE ROCK 16 (V,F,S) J Mackie 6-10-7 E Husband (5)
8 222- MY ADVENTURE 357 (S) M H Easterby 5-10-0 L Wyer

11-4 Far Out, 3-1 Freddie Muck, 5-1 Sounds Fyne, George Ashford, 8-1 Couture Stockings, Master Of The Rock, 10-1 My Adventure, 12-1 Storm Drum.

2.55 CLUGSTON HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,852: 3m 1f) (4)

1 300- MONKEY AGO 205 (G,S) Mrs S Bramall 8-12-0 Mr K Whelan (5)
2 PP4/ HIGH PADRE 530 (F,G,S) J Fitzgerald 9-10-12 F Leahy (3)
3 25-2 PRINCE YAZA 16 (F,G,S) J Curtis 8-10-8 L O'Hara
4 45-1 GILPA VALU 10 (F,S) Mrs J Pitman 6-10-1 R Bellamy

Evens Gilpa Valu, 11-4 Prince Yaza, 5-1 High Padre, 6-1 Monkey Ago.

3.25 CLUGSTON NOVICES CHASE
(£3,940: 2m 4f) (5)

1 04-F HICKSONS CHOICE 8 (B) J Wade 7-11-0 K Jones
2 -132 BONE SETTER 23 (G) S Mellor 5-10-13 Chris Webb
3 00- DANCING AT LAHARN 402 Miss S Wilton 5-10-13 T Eley
4 1-3U GORBY'S MYTH 9 (G) J Leigh 5-10-13 L Wyer
5 0- OVER THE CORRIB 204 J Curtis 5-10-13 L O'Hara

5-4 Bone Setter, 11-8 Gorby's Myth, 8-1 Hicksons Choice, 14-1 Dancing At Laharn, 16-1 Over The Corrib

3.55 CLUGSTON DAY MAIDEN OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (£1,287: 1m 5f 110yd) (19)

1 5 AMBER BATTLE 20 D Chapman 5-11-4 P Midgley (3)
2 BIT OF A DREAM Mrs S Smith 5-11-4 L McGrath (7)
3 00-4 BLOND MOSS 36 J Hellens 5-11-4 S Taylor (7)
4 BOXIT AGAIN W Clay 5-11-4 Diane Clay
5 4- HIGHLAND SPIN 175 Mrs M Reveley 4-11-4 R Hodge
6 00/ KING'S COURTIER 612 S Mellor 6-11-4 Chris Webb (5)
7 53- KINGS MASQUERADE 208 J Jefferson 4-11-4 M Newton (7)
8 0 MILO BOY 29 M Chapman 4-11-4 W Worthington
9 40 NAGARA SOUND 63 B Preece 4-11-4 Gary Lyons
10 00 NDABA 7 N Twiston-Davies 4-11-4 D Walsh (5)
11 0- OVER STATED 177 P Cheesbrough 5-11-4 A Manners (7)
12 00- PEACE LORD 231 Mrs D Haine 5-11-4 G Hogan (5)
13 0- BUCKMIST BLUE 277 K Morgan 5-10-13 A S Smith
14 FLOWER OF NAP J Eyre 4-10-13 O Pears
15 5- MEADOW DANCER 171 Miss Wilton 4-10-13 N Willmington (7)
16 464 PASJA 57 S Gollings 4-10-13 J Magee (3)
17 342 POPLIN 57 J Wharton 4-10-13 D Thomas (7)
18 04 QUEENSMEAD RULE 16 J Parkes 5-10-13 R McCarthy (7)
19 0 WORDY'S WIND 20 L Wordingham 6-10-13 R Massey (5)

7-2 Kings Masquerade, 4-1 Highland Spin, 8-1 Poplin, Flower Of Nap, 10-1 Amber Battle, Ndaba, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: N T-Davies, 4 winners from 13 runners, 30.8%; M H Easterby, 22 from 74, 29.7%; K Bailey, 8 from 27, 29.6%; J Pearce, 4 from 14, 28.6%.

JOCKEYS: L O'Hara, 6 from 32, 18.8%; L Wyer, 19 from 103, 18.4%; R Hodge, 3 from 19, 15.8%; A S Smith, 15 from 101, 14.9%.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S FOUR MEETINGS

Cheltenham

Going: good to firm, good in places

1.20 (3m 1f ch) 1, Beatson (Mr M Rimell, 2-1 jt-fav); 2, Foxgrove (6-1); 3, Rainbow Fountain (50-1). Airtrak 2-1 jt-fav (f) 5 ran. 8l, 25l. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £2.10; £1.40, £1.80. DF: £4.60. CSF: £11.81.

1.55 (2m 5f hdle) 1, Wisley Wonder (T Jenks, 7-2); 2, Kalasadi (8-1); 3, Campeche Bay (11-10 fav). 6 ran. 9l, 2l. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £4.10; £1.70, £2.80. DF: £12.90. CSF: £26.71.

2.30 (2m ch) 1, Wonder Man (M A Fitzgerald, 6-5); 2, Nakir (8-11 fav). 2 ran. 6l. N Henderson. Tote: £2.00.

3.05 (3m 1f ch) 1, Unguided Missile (R Dunwoody, 4-9 fav); 2, Scotton Banks (15-8). 2 ran. NR: Kelpie The Celt. Dist. G Richards. Tote: £1.30.

3.40 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Mysilv (J Osborne, 2-7 fav); 2, Hi Handsome (13-2). 3, Shoofk (7-1). 4 ran. NR: New Inn. 7l, 20l. C Egerton. Tote: £1.30. DF: £2.10. CSF: £2.74.

4.10 (2m 5f hdle) 1, Ginger Jim (M Clinton, 13-8 fav); 2, Hurricane Blake (4-1); 3, Chickabiddy (7-2). 6 ran. 2½l, 15l. P Hedger. Tote: £2.00; £1.40, £2.70. DF: £4.50. CSF: £7.71.

Placepot: £44.20. Quadpot: £10.50.

Ayr

Going: good

12.30 (2m hdle) 1, Master Beveled (P Carberry, 9-1); 2, Sunderland Echo (9-2); 3, Hazard A Guess (9-2). Chipped Out 4-1 fav. 14 ran. 7l, ½l. P Evans. Tote: £13.40; £2.70, £2.80, £3.70. DF: £28.50. Trio: £15.50. CSF: £48.65.

1.00 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Sierra Madrona (J Railton, 16-1); 2, Cottage Craft (5-1); 3, Tico Gold (16-1). The Whole Hog 9-4 fav. 17 ran. NR: Circle Boy. ¾l, 2l. Mrs A Swinbank. Tote: £41.00; £5.10, £1.60, £5.60. DF: £38.40. Trio: £155.70 (part won: pool of £111.85 carried forward to 1.40 at Ayr today). CSF: £100.72.

1.30 (2m ch) 1, The Grey Monk (A Dobbin, Evens fav); 2, Corston Racer (25-1); 3, Monrave (20-1). 8 ran. 25l, 2½l. G Richards. Tote: £1.90; £1.20, £2.50, £8.00. DF: £9.10. CSF: £22.76.

2.05 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Better Times Ahead (A Dobbin, 9-1); 2, Hit The Canvas (9-4 fav); 3, Dominie (5-2). 8 ran. 15l, 5l. G Richards. Tote: £8.40; £2.10, £2.20, £1.80. DF: £8.40. CSF: £28.28. Tricast: £59.29.

2.40 (2m 4f ch) 1, Stormy Coral (B Storey, 5-2); 2, Forbidden Time (9-4 fav); 3, Carson City (5-1). 8 ran. Nk, 8l. C Parker. Tote: £4.10; £2.10, £1.10, £1.90. DF: £5.90. CSF: £8.90. Tricast: £24.37.

3.15 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Copperhurst (G Cahill, 66-1); 2, Nodform Wonder (5-1); 3, King Of The Horse (9-2). Target Line 3-1 fav. 9 ran. 1l, 4l. W Kemp. Tote: £162.60; £9.00, £2.10, £1.10. DF: £128.20. Trio: £91.40. CSF: £305.86. Tricast: £1,355.89. No bid.

3.45 (2m hdle) 1, Penny A Day (P Niven, 4-6 fav); 2, Lansborough (6-1); 3, All On (11-1). 14 ran. 2½l, 1½l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £1.80; £1.10, £2.90, £1.70. DF: £4.30. Trio: £29.10. CSF: £6.38.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £2,862.13 carried forward to Cheltenham today).

Placepot: £25.70. Quadpot: £4.20.

Huntingdon

Going: good to firm

12.45 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Tim (C Rae, 8-13 fav); 2, General Jackie (11-8); 3, Henrietta Boo Boo (20-1). 3 ran. 10l, 30l. J Jenkins. Tote: £1.70. DF: £1.10. CSF: £1.74.

1.15 (3m 2f hdle) 1, Uluru (J R Kavanagh, 9-4 jt-fav); 2, Karar (7-2); 3, Lake Dominion (11-1). Moobakkr 9-4 jt-fav. 5 ran. 5l, hd. C Nash. Tote: £3.20; £1.10, £2.20. DF: £6.10. CSF: £9.51.

1.45 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Real Glee (J A McCarthy, 9-4 jt-fav); 2, Solo Gent (11-2); 3, Persian Tactics (9-4 jt-fav). 5 ran. 14l, 3l. O Sherwood. Tote: £3.60; £1.70, £2.50. DF: £16.80. CSF: £13.21.

2.20 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Wamdha (A S Smith, 15-8 fav); 2, Elflaa (7-2); 3, Gone By (3-1). 6 ran. Nk, 8l. K Morgan. Tote: £2.20; £1.10, £2.90. DF: £3.90. CSF: £8.21.

2.55 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, Clowater Lady (D O'Sullivan, 2-5 fav); 2, Elusive Star (2-1); 3, April's Model Lady (25-1). 3 ran. 15l, dist. R Rowe. Tote: £1.50. DF: £1.10. CSF: £1.51.

3.30 (2m 4f 110yd) 1, Kilfinny Cross (P Hide, 8-11 fav); 2, Drumstick (5-2). 3, Young Pokey (9-2). 5 ran. Shd, 4l. J Pearce. Tote: £2.00; £1.60, £1.80. DF: £2.80. CSF: £3.21.

4.00 (2m 110yd invitation race) 1, Days Of Thunder (Simon Earle, 6-1). 2, Durshan (5-2 fav); 3, Super Sharp (4-1). 7 ran. 4l, 2l. J White. Tote: £9.10; £3.60, £1.90. DF: £11.40. CSF: £21.04.

Placepot: £36.20. Quadpot: £30.90.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

12.10 (7f) 1, Masnun (A Clark, 5-2 fav); 2, Milos (7-2); 3, Apollo Red (25-1). 15 ran. NR: Donna Fugata. ½l, ¾l. R O'Sullivan. Tote: £4.40; £2.80, £1.00, £10.20. DF: £8.30. Trio: £57.10. CSF: £11.89.

12.40 (5f) 1, Anytime Baby (J F Egan, 20-1); 2, Spectacle Jim (12-1); 3, Rocky Two (14-1). Another Batchworth 5-2 fav. 10 ran. ½l, 1¼l. P Dalton. Tote: £29.80; £4.60, £2.00, £3.10. DF: £127.50. Trio: £200.10 (part won; pool of £112.78 carried forward to 3.00 at Cheltenham today). CSF: £205.38. Tricast: £3,089.61. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

1.10 (5f) 1, Friendly Brave (A Whelan, 11-4); 2, Kalar (13-2); 3, Perfect Brave (12-1). Pearl Dawn 5-2 fav. 10 ran. 2½l, ½l. Miss G Kelleway. Tote: £4.50; £1.80, £1.50, £2.60. DF: £9.70. Trio: £17.70. CSF: £19.42. Tricast: £166.11.

1.40 (7f) 1, Vera's First (A Whelan, 9-4 fav); 2, Crimson And Clover (5-1); 3, Miss Pickpocket (4-1). 14 ran. NR: [illegible]. hd, 4l. G Lewis. Tote: [illegible] DF: [illegible]

2.10 (1m) 1, [illegible] (11-2); 2, Oblomov (7-1); 3, [illegible] (15-8 fav). [illegible] Tote: £4.90; [illegible] £14.80. Trio: [illegible] £91.05.

2.45 (7f) 1, [illegible] Mr Nevermind [illegible] (8-1). 15 ran. [illegible] Sly. Tote: £1[illegible] £21.90. Trio: [illegible]

3.20 (1m 2f) 1, [illegible] Hind, 4-5 fav, [Newmarket Correspon]dent's nap); [illegible] Crystal Gift [illegible] Gosden. Tote: [illegible] DF: £3.10. Trio: [illegible]

3.50 (1m 4f) 1, [illegible] Father Dan [illegible] Legacy (14-1) [illegible] £3.00; £1.10 [illegible] £6.90. Trio: [illegible] £74.42.

Placepot: £2[illegible]

France rebels out to prove a point

From David Hands, rugby correspondent
in Toulouse

IT IS a strange, not to say unique, position that French rugby finds itself in today. The meeting at the Municipal Stadium here of the countries placed second and third in the 1995 rugby union World Cup, combined with the occasion of New Zealand's 1,000th game, might ordinarily have sufficed as an outstanding offering.

Now, however, it has also become a test of player-power, thanks to the dispute between the France national squad and their governing body which led to the resignation of André Herrero, the team manager, on Thursday.

If France win, the players' position will be significantly enhanced. If they lose, the opportunity is there for wholesale change, with the removal from the team of the ringleaders in the dispute.

There have been crises in French rugby before, notably in the bickering over money which preceded the 1991 World Cup quarter-final against England, which the French lost. On that occasion, however, the team was divided: here the French are as one — "15 angry men" as the local newspaper headline declared — and may compare their situation with the stance adopted by the England team last May.

On that occasion, Will Carling was sacked as team captain by the officers of the Rugby Football Union for his derogatory assessment of the RFU committee during a television programme. His swift reinstatement was due, in no small measure, to the World Cup squad making a united response that they would have no other captain and appealing for his return.

However, the French players are dismayed that Herrero has been caught in the crossfire. Their target was Bernard Lapasset, the president of the French federation, who was left isolated in his Pyrenean home with influenza on Thursday when the players boycotted a civic reception in protest at the enforced absence, at Lapasset's request, of the three internationals who spent the summer playing provincial rugby in South Africa.

Lapasset arrived in Toulouse yesterday and will be holding urgent talks concerning a replacement manager and chairman of selectors (France and New Zealand meet again in Paris next Saturday), not to mention the attitude of the recalcitrant players.

You might have thought there had been sufficient polemics already on this tour, given the anti-nuclear stance adopted by several leading All Blacks before and during the visit: five of them published open letters of protest to Jacques Chirac, the President of France, a fortnight ago, among them Josh Kronfeld, who has spent the entire tour struggling with an injury, and Jonah Lomu, whose clash with Emile N'Tamack is regarded as one of the potential highlights today.

Califano assumes a position behind Merle as the France forwards rehearse their lineout routine

The two wings recall the 1994 series in New Zealand, when these countries last met, and France concluded a unique 2-0 triumph. Lomu, a raw youngster, was then baffled by the intricate attacking lines of the French and was subsequently dropped; now he is the *force majeur* of the All Blacks but time has moved on for several of the players who lost the World Cup final to South Africa less than five months ago.

Five of those players are no longer part of this XV, including the influential half backs, Andrew Mehrtens (injured) and Graeme Bachop (moved to Japan). The All Blacks have struggled against the French regional teams and may anticipate a change of course when they return home, since Laurie Mains is to step down as coach and a power struggle to succeed him is likely to develop between Ross Cooper, the assistant coach here, and John Hart, the former Auckland and All Blacks coach.

However, the touring side's situation is as nothing compared with that of France: quite apart from this week's revolt, only six of those who played in the World Cup semi-final remain. A new generation came together in the Latin Cup last month, of whom Thomas Castaignede has been handed the goal kicking chores in the absence of Thierry Lacroix.

It is virtually impossible to predict how they will fare. Were it anyone but the French, you would be inclined to write off their prospects, but they have more than enough motivation to succeed.

TOULOUSE TEAMS

FRANCE: J-L Sadourny; E N'Tamack, R Dourthe, T Castaignede, P Saint-André (capt), A Penaud; P Carbonneau, L Benézech, M de Rougemont, C Califano, P Benetton, F Pelous, O Merle, A Carminati, A Benazzi

NEW ZEALAND: J W Wilson, E J Rush, F E Bunce, W K Little, J T Lomu, S D Culhane, S T Forster; C W Dowd, S B T Fitzpatrick (capt), O M Brown, B P Larsen, I D Jones, R M Brooke, M N Jones, Z V Brooke

Revitalised Harris earns final shot at Jansher

From Colin McQuillan
in Nicosia

DEL HARRIS yesterday became only the second Englishman to reach a world open squash final. The 26-year-old from Colchester last night defeated Craig Rowland, of Australia, 10-15, 15-13, 15-4, 15-8 in a 77-minute semi-final at the Eleftheria Arena here in Cyprus to equal the achievement of Peter Marshall in Barcelona last year.

Marshall, who withdrew from this year's championship through illness, lost to Jansher Khan in the 1994 final and Harris will today meet Jansher, the world No 1, who yesterday beat Anthony Hill, of Australia, 15-7, 15-12, 15-6 in 44 minutes in the second semi-final.

Tall and broad, Harris, who once promised to carry British squash to the heights, has survived his own health problems. After winning the world junior title in 1988 and a brace of British national championships in 1987 and 1989, he suffered a series of injuries, principally to the lower back, and a debilitating virus infection that led at one stage to mild Bell's Palsy.

He has rediscovered his appetite for the game over the past two seasons, shedding 27lb on the way, reaching two quarter-finals, three semi-finals and now two finals on the PSA world tour since August.

Having removed the second-seeded Australian, Rodney Eyles, on Thursday, Harris had every right to start confidently against Rowland last night but a combination of sharp rallying from the young Australian and a few dubious penalty-stroke decisions from the referee, Quintin Hill, of France, took the opening game away from him after he had been level at 10-10.

"I came up quite well from the quarter-final but I was a bit lacking in leg-power at the start of the game. The ball was a bit heavy and it took me a while to find my length," Harris said.

At 12-10 in the second game, Harris produced a dying forehand drop to end what proved to be the master rally of the match. From that point, the confidence of the Englishman grew visibly as his speed and ability to read his opponent's game increasingly negated Rowland's clean drop-shots and crisp driving.

Harris clinched the second game with a forehand drop, played at full extension in the top right-hand corner, took control of the third with a run of six points at the start and then found well-chosen spaces to seal his place in the final as the gallant Rowland tired in the fourth.

IN BRIEF

Teddington hoping to make up leeway

JULIAN HALLS, who is recovering from a hernia operation, intends to act as manager of the Old Loughtonians hockey team, which visits Teddington today for an important first division match in the National League (Sydney Friskin writes). Old Loughtonians, who share with Reading the distinction of being the only unbeaten sides in this division, will need all the guidance Halls can give them against the title-holders, who are aiming to recover lost ground in the championship chase.

The focus of attention switches to Reading tomorrow when they play Guildford, whose powerful attack, inspired by Jennings, will attempt to make amends for last week's 3-2 defeat by Southgate. Reading have equally strong resources from which to pick their front-runners.

Wharton's quest

Boxing: Henry Wharton, the super-middleweight from York, continues his campaign to re-establish his credibility as a world title contender when he defends his European crown against Sam Storey, of Belfast, at Halifax tonight. Wharton, who failed twice in world title attempts — against Nigel Benn and Chris Eubank — faces a tricky test against the Irishman.

Bowing out

Netball: Kendra Slawinski, the England captain, will be hoping to mark her retirement from the international scene tomorrow with a victory in the deciding game of England's three-match series against the Cook Islands. Slawinski, England's most capped player, will gain her 128th and last cap at the Manchester Velodrome on her 33rd birthday.

Tideway trio

Rowing: Peter Haining, of Scotland, defends his Thames World Sculling Challenge title this afternoon over the Putney to Mortlake course. Two lightweights, Niall O'Toole, from Ireland, and Frans Göbel, from Holland, are his challengers.

Course unclear

Yachting: Proposals for including twin trapeze dinghies in the match-racing programme at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney were deferred for another year yesterday when delegates at the International Yacht Racing Union's annual conference in Hamburg failed to agree.

Wales aim to climb learning curve

By Gerald Davies

HAVING played South Africa, the rugby World Cup winners, in August, Wales today play Fiji, one of the teams that failed to qualify for the tournament. According to Geoff Evans, the Wales manager, this match marks the second stage in the development of the national team over the next 12 months.

The variously passionate contests of the five nations' championship represent the third, and the tour to Australia next summer, the fourth. With such targets in mind there is much talk of learning curves but the results of the recent past suggest no smooth and gradual upward trajectory.

Five nations' champions two seasons ago, Wales then pursued a successful course of pre-qualification for the World Cup, and looked to be developing nicely in both spirit and application. But thereafter they came down with a bump. In the spring they gave-up their five nations' title with barely a whimper, failing to win a game. There was no relief either when, on the larger stage, they failed to reach the quarter-finals of the World Cup.

Alan Davies was the coach this time last year but it was Alex Evans who was installed in the position during the summer. Since he is on his way back to Australia soon, Kevin Bowring is in charge of the senior team for the first time today. He has been a successful coach of the Wales Under-21 side.

Whether he will continue in the position depends on his teaching commitments at Clifton College. A long-term appointment is further complicated by the fact that being national coach is increasingly seen as a full-time job. With this year's championship looming, and a game against Italy in January, the position must soon be settled on a more permanent basis.

There is another disturbing lack of continuity. In the five nations' tournament Ieuan Evans was captain but it was Mike Hall who was elevated to the task during the World Cup. However, on Wales' return to the Republic two months later, Jonathan Humphreys, the Cardiff hooker, took over the reins. He will do so for the second time today.

From the team originally chosen to play under him, there has been one change. John Davies, the tight-head prop, has been forced to withdraw after sustaining a rib cartilage injury against Pontypridd a fortnight ago. His place is taken by Lyndon Mustoe, from Cardiff, who has played 13 times for the Wales A team and is recognised to be a tough prop of the old school, which encouraged the primacy of scrummage technique. This will be a problem for Fiji, who are not comfortable in this phase.

Scrummaging, however, is not something they wish to emphasise. Their strength is in running and when Fiji faced, in Llanelli, a like-minded team the touring team were seen at their best, even if there were a suprising number of handling lapses.

They have a number of injury questions to resolve but the team will be similar to the one that played in midweek. Eight of them play their rugby in New Zealand and Raulini, the scrum half, plays in Australia. They do, therefore, understand what it is to tighten their grip now and again and not to lose themselves in free expression.

CARDIFF TEAMS

WALES: J Thomas (Llanelli); I Evans (Llanelli), N Davies (Llanelli), G Thomas (Bridgend), W Proctor (Llanelli), N Jenkins (Pontypridd), A Moore (Cardiff); C Loader (Swansea), J Humphreys (Cardiff, capt), L Mustoe (Cardiff), C Quinnell (Llanelli), A Moore (Swansea), D Jones (Cardiff), M Bennett (Cardiff), H Taylor (Cardiff).

FIJI: F Rayasi, P Bale, S Sorovaki, L Little, M Barr; J Waqa, J Raulini, J Veitayaki (capt), G Smith, E Natuivau, I Tawake, A Nadolo, E Katalau, T Amnavalu, D Rouse

Referee: P O'Brien (New Zealand)

Injuries pose selection problems for Rowell

OPTIMISM may be an essential ingredient of sport but it would need an outrageous fantasist to imagine that England's selected XV to play South Africa in a week's time will appear at Twickenham tomorrow, fresh and fit to prepare for their meeting with the rugby world champions (David Hands writes).

Not one of the training evenings at Marlow this season has been unaffected by injury and Jack Rowell, the team manager, can only wait to see if Mike Catt will be able to take his place in the side, if Jason Leonard and Kyran Bracken have thrown off illness, and if Will Carling has recovered from neck injury.

That is before today's round of Courage Clubs Championship matches, the last before the mid-season break. Those clubs who can afford to do so have rested England players, but it has been impossible to clear this, the preceding Saturday, completely — the training demands of the Irish and Scottish teams further complicating club selections.

Catt, the Bath stand-off half around whose running England seek to base their game, has not played since October 21 when he damaged an ankle. He misses the game with West Hartlepool today and, should he be forced to withdraw, the beneficiary against South Africa — who play Italy in Rome tomorrow — would be Pears, who returns for Harlequins against Orrell, alongside Leonard.

Not that Leonard can be match fit, this being only his second game of the season thanks to a long-standing shoulder injury. However Harlequins rest Carling, to ensure his availability to England, and Bath do the same with the recalled flanker, Andy Robinson, whose absence gives Ed Pearce a rare first-team outing.

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Americans stick to middle way

SPAIN, Florida, Puerto Rico and now China. Who on earth said Americans do not travel well? Only about ten per cent of them have passports but Fred Couples and Davis Love III roam to all parts of the globe to bring home the Heineken World Cup of Golf (Patricia Davies writes).

The United States duo, who have won the trophy for the last three years, are four strokes clear after the second round of this year's competition, at the Mission Hills club in Shenzhen, 60-odd miles from Hong Kong. Their total of 269 is 19 under par.

Sweden's Jesper Parnevik and Jarmo Sandelin, on 273, are in second place and Ireland, represented by Darren Clarke and Philip Walton, are fifth on 281. "We're just playing for a place now," Walton said.

China does not appear to welcome careful drivers. There is anarchy on the roads here, with right-hand drive juggernauts tangling, often literally, with left-hand drive vans and cars (mainland China drives on the right, Hong Kong on the left), not to mention death-defyingly pedestrians and hordes of cyclists, all unlit at night.

Obviously no one told Love and Couples. They drove beautifully and had five birdies in the first six holes. Love went on to score 67 and Couples 69 and Parnevik, who did his best to give them a rough ride with his 66, said: "I don't think they missed a fairway between them"

He had a hole-in-one at the 15th and the sponsors presented him with 52 crates of their product. But even after finishing bogey, bogey, Parnevik asked for an orange juice.

FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

PEKING: China Open: Men's singles: Third round: J Supnanto (Indo) bt A Jaechang (Korea) 15-7, 15-0, Sun Jun (China) bt Rashid Sidek (Malay) 15-5, 15-9; E Hoyer-Larsson (Den) bt Chen Gang (China) 15-8, 15-2, Yu Luzhi (China) bt Jens Olsson (Swe) 11-15, 15-12, 15-6, Dong Jiong (China) bt I Wijaya (Ind) 15-13, 9-15, 15-9. Ardi Wiranata (Indo) bt Pan Chen (Malay) 15-5, 15-3, Fung Permadi (Taipei) bt Hu Zhilan (China) 15-1, 15-8, P Rasmussen (Den) bt A Budi Kusuma (Indo) 15-6, 5-15, 15-12. Quarter-finals: Supnanto bt Sun 15-5, 15-8, Hoyer-Larsson bt Yu 15-1, 15-9, Dong bt Wiranata 15-8, 15-11, Rasmussen bt Fung 11-15, 15-10, 15-7. Women's singles: Third round: S Susanti (Indo) bt Dai Yun (China) 5-11, 11-8, 11-6; Wang Chen (China) bt A Soenderaard (Den) 11-7, 11-7; Bang Soo Hyun (Korea) bt Cai Jian (China) 11-5, 11-0; Han Jingna (China) bt Re Rufei (China) 11-2, 10-11, 11-5, Zhang Ning (China) bt C Martin (Den) 11-5, 11-3, Ra Kyungmin (Korea) bt Z Abdulalah (Sin) 11-5, 11-4, Ye Zhaoying (China) bt C Bengtsson (Swe) 11-7, 11-8. Quarter-finals: Susanti bt Wang 11-3, 11-7, Soo Hyun bt Han 11-7, 11-1, Yao bt Zhang 11-6, 11-1, Ye bt Kyungmin 11-1, 12-10

BASKETBALL

AMSTERDAM: Zoetermeer Classic: Final: Lithuania 95 England 87 (Austin 20, Huggins 16, Bucknall 13, Gordon 12)

ANTWERP: Belgium 78 England 72 (Gordon 18, Huggins 16, Bucknall 13).

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Cleveland 88 Chicago 106, New York 103 Indiana 96, Dallas 104 Milwaukee 94, Golden State 121 Atlanta 125

CRICKET

CASTLE CUP (first day of four) Johannesburg: Transvaal 355-7 (M Rushmere 133, B White 85, K Rutherford 51) v Border. Bloemfontein: Northern Transvaal 259 (M Davis 71, F Stephenson 4-58) Free State 5-1 Paarl: Boland 177-4 (A Kuiper 74 not out, K Jackson 69) v Natal. Cape Town: Eastern Province 234 (D Callaghan 58, E Simons 4-38, A Martyn 4-68) Western Province 31-0

EQUESTRIANISM

MILLSTREET INTERNATIONAL: The Moffatt Engineering Stakes: 1, Day Date (B Mandli, Switz) clear, 52.29secs; 2, Loro Piana Punjab (R Pessoa, Bra) clear, 55.58, 3, Livia 11 (A Firestone, US) clear, 56.43 Others: 13, Everest Magic Carpet (M Whitaker, GB) clear, 64.07, 18, Toggi Samoens (T Stockdale, GB) clear, 68.93, 20, Abbervail Dream (D Lampard, GB) 0.5 faults, 71.57

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Group four: Italy 2 Ukraine 1.

BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: Braganlino 1 Fluminense 0, Botafogo 3 Uniao Sao Joao 0, Flamengo 0 Santos 3 Palmeiras 3 Bahia 0; Juventude 1 Atletico Mineiro 1

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Bolton 2 Liverpool 0, West Bromwich Albion 1 Stoke City 1

FA YOUTH CUP: First round: Plymouth 1 Charlton 4

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Dundalk 2 Galway 0

SCHOOLS MATCHES: FA Premier League: Under-19 trophy: Dorset 2 Cornwall 0, Inner London 1 Kent 3

ALAN SMITH TESTIMONIAL: Arsenal 2 Sampdoria 0.

GOLF

SHENZHEN, China: World Cup: Leading second-round scores. 269: United States (D Love III 65, 67, F Couples 68, 69) 273: Sweden (J Parnevik 67, 66, J Sandelin 69, 71) 279: Mexico (E Toledo 70, 67, R Alarcon 72, 70) 280: Japan (H Sasaki 62, 69, H Goda 77, 72) 281: Ireland (D Clarke 68, 69; P Walton 73, 71) 282: France (J Van de Velde 69, 72, J-L Guepy 72, 69), Scotland (S Torrance 68 70, A Coltart 70, 74), Australia (R Allenby 68, 73, B Ogle 70, 71). 283: New Zealand (M Campbell 69, 71, F Nobilo 73 70) 284: South Africa (R Goosen 71, 66, H Buhrmann 74, 73). England (M Roe 68, 69; P Broadhurst 73, 74). 285: Italy (C Rocca 70, 68, S Grappasonni 72, 75). Wales (M Mouland 68, 74, P Price 73, 70) 286: Spain (S Luna 88, 71; I Garrido 74, 75) 287: Germany (A Cejka 71, 70; S Struver 73, 73). 288: Holland (J Steonkamer 70, 70, R Muntz 73, 75). Canada (R Gibson 67, 73; J Rutledge 72, 76), Zimbabwe (T Johnstone 67, 78; M McNulty 71, 72).

MELBOURNE: Australian women's open: Leading second-round scores: 141: L Neumann (Swe) 67, 74 142: J Geddes (US) 68, 74 145: A Sorenstam (Swe) 70, 75, R Hetherington 74, 71, R Walton (US) 74, 71. 146: C Nilsmark (Swe) 74, 72. 147: K Webb 73, 74, P Rizzo (US) 75, 72. 148: D Reid (GB) 73, 75 C Hall (GB) 69, 79; J Crafter (Aus) 76, 72, A Nicholas (GB) 76, 72.

TOKYO: Taiheiyo Masters: Leading second-round scores (Japan unless stated): 136: S Higashi 70, 66. 139: H Kase 70 69. 141 T Watanabe 73, 68; T Suzuki 68, 73: 142: R Gamez (US) 76, 66, M Ozaki 73, 69: T Odate 73, 69, S Maruyama 70, 72 143: T Ozaki 76, 67, C Montgomerie (GB) 74, 69. Others: 144: Peter Senior (Aus) 73, 71. 145: G Norman (Aus) 74, 71; B Lane (GB) 71, 74.

MYRTLE BEACH: USPGA Senior Tour event: Leading first round scores (US unless stated) 68: J Colbert, 71: A Jacklin (GB), S Hobday (Zim), R Floyd, L Gilbert, R Thompson, I Aoki (Japan) 72: H Irwin, T Weiskopf, J Albus, G Archer 73: D Eichelberger, B Murphy, K Zarley, B Allin, J Kieler, T Wargo

HOCKEY

CAPETOWN: Women's International: Great Britain 1 United States 0 (abandoned 55min, bad light).

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 4 Ottawa 3 Florida 2 Edmonton 1, Philadelphia 3 Calgary 1, Chicago 5 Vancouver 2, Colorado 1 Dallas 1 (OT)

MOTOR RACING

ADELAIDE: Australian Grand Prix: First qualifying session: 1, D Hill (GB) Williams 1min 15.505sec (112mph), 2, D Coulthard (GB) Williams 1 15.628, 3, G Berger (Austria) Ferrari 1:15.923, 4, M Schumacher (Ger) Benetton 1 16.039; 5, R Barrichello (Bra) Jordan 1 16.725; 6, H-H Frentzen (Ger) Sauber 1 16 837. 7, E Irvine (GB) Jordan 1 17 197 8, J Herbert (GB) Benetton 1 17.289, 9, M Blundell (GB) McLaren 1.17:348, 10, M Brundle (GB) Ligier 1:17.788.

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCH: Tenby United 25 Aberavon 32.

SNOOKER

EDINBURGH: Benson and Hedges Championship: Second round (England unless stated): I Hurdman bt I Sargeant (Wales) 5-3, J Wallace bt N Tomkings (Wales) 5-3, D Henry (Scot) bt M Bailey 5-0; S Reardon bt S Popplewell 5-3, M Judge (Ire) bt A Robidoux (Can) 5-0, G Ponting bt J Birch 5-4; M Wilson bt F O'Brien (Ire) 5-4, M Fenton bt D Rippon 5-3

REAL TENNIS

HAMPTON COURT: British Land British Open qualifying championship: First round: S Brockenshaw bt A Knibbs 6-5, 6-2, 6-2. S Ronaldson bt M Coghlan 6-0, 5-6, 6-5. K Ludekens bt M Ward 6-3, 6-4, M Ryan bt S Barker 6-2, 6-3

SQUASH

NICOSIA: World open championships: Men: Quarter-finals: C Rowland (Aus) bt M Chaloner (Eng) 17-15, 12-15, 15-7, 15-6. D Harris (Eng) bt R Eyles (Aus) 15-13, 10-15, 15-12, 12-15, 15-12. Jansher Khan (Pak) beat S Parke (Eng) 15-5, 17-15, 15-9, A Hill (Aus) bt S Elopuro (Fin) 15-13, 15-4, 15-13 Semi-finals: Harris bt Rowland 10-15, 15-13, 15-4, 15-8, Khan bt Hill 15-7, 15-12, 15-6

Women's tournament: Quarter-finals: M Martin (Aus) bt S Wright (Eng) 7-9, 9-7, 9-3, 7-9, 9-1; C Jackman (Eng) bt S Horner (Eng) 3-9, 8-10, 9-4, 9-6, 9-3, L Irving (Aus) bt F Geaves (Eng) 9-7, 8-10, 9-3, 9-6, S FitzGerald (Aus) bt C Owens (Aus) 9-6, 9-1, 9-0 Semi-finals: Martin bt Jackman 3-9, 9-0, 9-3, 9-10, 9-2. FitzGerald bt Irving 9-7, 9-1, 9-0

TENNIS

STOCKHOLM: Men's tournament: Second round: J Courier (US) bt T Woodbridge (Aus) 6-4, 6-3, A Boetsch (Fr) bt H Holm (Swe) 2-6, 6-2, 7-6, M Tillstrom (Swe) bt R Krajicek (Holl) 7-6, 2-6, 6-3. Quarter-finals: A Boetsch (Fr) bt M Tillstrom (Swe) 7-5, 6-4, D Prinosil (Ger) bt J Courier (US) 6-3, 7-6.

PHILADELPHIA: Women's tournament (US unless stated): Second round: A Huber (Ger) bt M Hingis (Switz) 2-6, 6-1, 6-2, I Spirlea (Rom) bt N Zvereva (Belo) 6-2, 1-6, 6-1, L McNeil (US) bt L Raymond (US) 6-2, 6-3 Quarter-finals: S Graf (Ger) bt M McGrath (US) 6-3, 6-2

MOSCOW: Kremlin Cup: Second round: M Rosset (Switz) bt J Krosiak (Slovakia) 6-4, 6-3, A Olkhovsky (Russ) bt M Goellner (Ger) 6-4, 6-7, 7-6, C-U Steeb (Ger) bt S Matsuoka (Japan) 6-2, 6-7, 6-3; S Draper (Aus) bt K Kucera (Slovakia) 6-1, 7-6

BEIJING: ATP Challenger tournament: Quarter-finals: T Henman (GB) bt S Ladipo (Nigeria) 6-4 6-2.

SHEFFIELD: Reebok Tour: Semi-finals: Men: G Henderson bt P Hand 7-5, 6-7, 7-6 N Weal bt D Ward 6-4, 6-3 Women: C Taylor bt N Egorova 7-5, 6-3 L Ahl bt S Tse 6-3, 7-5

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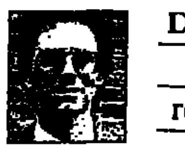
Lessing's prospects enhanced by controversy

Lessing: man to beat



David Powell says high humidity offers threat to British hopes of retaining the world triathlon title

The triathlon world championships break new ground here in Cancun this weekend when they are staged for the first time outside the sport's main centres of Europe, Australasia and North America. While this Mexican holiday resort on the Caribbean puts triathlon on the map in Latin America, a change in the country providing the men's champion is not expected.

For the last three years, Great Britain has boasted the world champion. Simon Lessing won in 1992, Spencer Smith in 1993 and 1994. In Smith's absence, Lessing is the obvious man to beat.

Six weeks ago Lessing won the long-distance world title in Nice, and tomorrow he is seeking to be the first to do the double by winning over what used to be known as the Olympic distance, before the International Olympic Committee (IOC) warned the International Triathlon Union (ITU) off the term. Now the standard distance, comprising a 1,500 metres swim, 40 kilometres ride and ten kilometres run, is known simply as triathlon, in the same way that a marathon implies 26 miles and 385 yards.

Lessing has lost only one of his 17 races this year, when he punctured in Surfer's Paradise. However, the challenge here is not as straightforward as it may appear. He does not have to face Smith but there are three unsettling factors — the heat and humidity, the introduction of drafting, and the need to peak again so soon after his triumph in the long-distance championship.

Drafting, whereby competitors are not required to keep a specified distance apart on the ride, is Lessing's area of greatest concern.

"That is the only thing that is worrying me," he said yesterday. Drafting reduces the likelihood of a splintered field. "If you come off the bike with 40 athletes, which is likely, you could be faced with a total unknown who has not done any work and has been sitting in, but who can run 30 minutes for 10 kilometres," Lessing added.

It is the drafting issue which has led Smith and two other top men, Greg Welch and Mike Pigg, to boycott the championships here.

Lessing, as a strong runner, is more likely to gain than to lose from drafting, and he said that, over the past fortnight, he had been accused by "quite a few" international athletes of "selling out".

He defends his decision mainly on commercial grounds. "For a sponsor to say 'we've got a world champion' is a lot better than saying 'we have not got the world champion'," Lessing said. But he also take the view that confrontation with the ITU is not the way forward. "We have to support our international governing body," he said.

Lessing believes he has fully recovered from his effort in Nice, after which he was barely able to walk up the steps from the massage-room. "I was sore for a couple of days but I recovered quickly and I do not think it took too much out of me," he said.

Born and raised in South Africa, Lessing says he is better able to cope with heat and humidity than most Europeans. The ITU duathlon (run-ride-run) world championships here last weekend sounded a warning when ten per cent of the field dropped out suffering dehydration.

The title was won for the first time by an athlete from outside the traditional strong nations, Oscar Galindez, from Argentina.

There is a feeling here that, while Hamish Carter, of New Zealand, Brad Beven, of Australia, and Ralf Eggert, of Germany, are recognised threats to Lessing, Leandro Macedo could end the US-Australian-British monopoly since the championships began in 1989 by taking advantage of the climate and Latin American support to win for Brazil.

Main stays out of trouble to recapture British title

By John Hennessy

STEPHANIE MAIN produced a superb free programme at Basingstoke yesterday to regain the Tesa British ice skating championship title. A vision in white, she triumphantly expunged the memory of her collapse at the same stage in the same arena last year.

The secondary medals went to two 15-year-olds: Zoe Jones was runner-up for the second year in succession and Kelly McDermott, who was celebrating her birthday, finished third.

Apart from one minor hitch, Main, 19, skated flawlessly, so far as anyone, including Alice Fell, her trainer at Murrayfield, could tell, and she sailed home with rising confidence. She opened with a clear triple salchow and thereafter seemed to be inspired.

The double axel and triple toe loop presented no problems and though the warm up foreshadowed a triple loop, in the event she wisely settled for a double. She had shown the triple in front of the judges — "just to let them know I could do it".

The winner two years' ago, she knew there was no longer any need for heroics and bent her efforts to a succession of cleanly executed double jumps interspersed with elegant spirals and steps, together with a seductive lay-back spin.

The one unfortunate feature was a single axel towards the end that was quite out of character in an otherwise outstanding performance.

Below her in the British rankings there seems to be a battle developing among the 15-year-olds, Jones and McDermott being joined by Jenna Arrowsmith, who had been prevented by injury from defending the title she won last year at the age of 14.

Jones had the better of it yesterday, by six judges to one, but McDermott, fresh from her victory in the junior championships earlier in the week, offered a serious challenge. Certainly she should be among those fighting for a place in the Winter Olympics two seasons hence.

However, for all the promise that McDermott showed, together with a beguiling presence on the ice, she and her trainer will have to recognise that a triple jump or two is an important prerequisite for success at a higher level these days.

Jones did attempt a triple toe loop but, as in the short programme on Thursday, she listed catastrophically in mid-air and, again as on Thursday, came heavily to grief.

RESULT: Women's final: 1, S Main (Murrayfield) 1.5pts; 2, Z Jones (Swindon) 3.5; 3, K McDermott (East Kilbride) 5.5; 4, T Sear (Oxford) 6.0, on countback; 5, N Manning (Stevenage) 6.0; 6, J Spiten (Queens) 9.0

MARC ASPLAND

Main performed with growing confidence en route to the British title yesterday

Stockdale takes second with Santas Echo

From Jenny MacArthur in Millstreet, Co Cork

TIM STOCKDALE yesterday confirmed the return to form of Toggi Santas Echo, his prolific winner, when the pair finished second behind Katie Monahan Prudent, of the United States, on Tovia, in the Griffin Woodhouse Prize, the first international jump-off class of the Millstreet international horse show.

Santas Echo had nearly four months off this summer after injuring his suspensory ligament while competing in France in May. It was the 14-year-old horse's second serious injury in 12 months. He was back in competition at Wembley last month, but faced nothing so demanding there as the task that confronted him yesterday.

Thirteen of the 55 starters were clear over the first round. In the jump-off, Nick Skelton, one of the favourites for the Volvo World Cup qualifier today, put up one of the fastest rounds on Cathleen, his German mare, but had one fence down. Dominique Joassin, of Belgium, on Danton du Bosquetiau, then took the lead in a time of 42.74sec.

Stockdale, 31, from Chesham in Buckinghamshire, had watched Joassin's round closely and saw that seconds could be saved by taking a tighter line over the first four fences, and then taking a "flyer" at the last. The obliging Santas Echo duly finished 1.34sec inside the Belgian's time.

However, Monahan Prudent, the runner-up at the inaugural World Cup in 1979 and a consistent winner on the United States circuit, followed the British rider's example and, with a faster, longer-striding horse, duly took 1.79sec off his time.

Stockdale has competed in 11 Nations Cup events but has yet to fulfil his ambition of riding in a British championship team. Toggi Samoens, the young horse that he hopes may one day help him to fulfil that aim — and in which he has invested most of his money — had his first introduction to the Millstreet arena on the opening day this week, completing a stylish clear round to finish eighteenth in a field of 76.

"He hasn't had a fence down since August," Stockdale, who owns Toggi Samoens jointly with Janet Cosgrove, said. He has just signed a new one-year contract with Toggi, a clothing firm, and found the horse by chance when looking in vain at four-year-olds at a yard in Europe.

As he was about to leave the yard, he was asked if he minded showing off a horse for an agent of Jan Tops, the Dutch rider. Stockdale duly climbed into the saddle and swiftly decided that Tops was not going to see the horse. He has since turned down a offer of £500,000 for the seven-year-old gelding.

RESULT: The Griffin Woodhouse Prize (jump-off): 1, Tovia (K Monahan Prudent, US), clear in 39.61sec; 2, Toggi Santas Echo (T Stockdale, GB), clear in 41.40; 3, Danton Du Bosquetiau (D Joassin, Belgium), clear in 42.74. Other British placings: 9, Cathleen (N Skelton), four faults in 42.68; equal 14, Everest Let's Go (M Whitaker), 0.25 (in first round).

Confident Henman continues fine form in Peking

By Our Sports Staff

TIM HENMAN maintained his winning form to move smoothly into the semi-finals of the ATP Challenger tennis tournament in Peking. The British No 2, from Oxford, who has won the ATP Challenger in Seoul and the British national title in the past fortnight, yesterday beat Sule Ladipo, of Nigeria, 6-4, 6-2 and meets Joao Cunha-Silva, of Portugal, today.

Henman, 21, defeated the Portuguese 6-4, 6-4 in the semi-finals of the Seoul event, and should go into the match in confident mood. The Briton, ranked 115th in the world after his victories this week, is expected to have moved nearer to achieving his ambition of entering the top 100 by the end of the year, when the latest rankings are announced on Monday.

Jim Courier, the American world No 7, suffered a surprising defeat in the quarter-finals of the Stockholm Open yesterday, however, losing 6-3, 7-6 to the Czech-born German, David Prinosil. Courier, who leaves for the final tournament of the season in Frankfurt next week, said: "I was simply outplayed."

Courier saved two match points in the tenth game of the second set but was unable to stop the impressive German on his third match point, in the tie-break. Prinosil faces either Arnaud Boetsch, of France, the fifth seed, or Mikael Tillstrom, of Sweden.

Andre Agassi, sidelined by a chest injury that cost him the world No 1 ranking, will not be joining his compatriot, Courier, in Frankfurt, however. "I'm obviously very disappointed, as one of my goals was to finish the year at No 1," Agassi said.

Agassi, who lost the top spot to Pete Sampras on Monday, strained a pectoral muscle during the United States' Davis Cup semi-final victory over Sweden in September, and damaged it again two weeks ago. "There has not been time for recovery," Agassi said. "Therefore, this condition has persisted. However, I have hopes of returning for Davis Cup in Russia in December."

Wayne Ferreira, world ranked No 9, will replace Agassi in the eight-man field that — apart from Courier and Sampras — includes Thomas Muster, Michael Chang, Boris Becker, Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Thomas Enqvist.

Results, page 44

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket*

FOOTBALL

Endsleigh Insurance League

First division

(1) * Derby v West Bromwich
(2) Grimsby v Barnsley
(3) Leicester v Watford
(4) Luton v Oldham
(5) Millwall v Ipswich
(6) Norwich v Crystal Palace
(7) Port Vale v Sheffield Utd
(8) Portsmouth v Huddersfield
(9) Reading v Birmingham
(10) Southend v Stoke
(11) Sunderland v Tranmere P

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Millwall	15	8	5	2	19	13	29
Leicester	15	8	4	3	27	20	28
Birmingham	15	7	5	3	26	16	26
Sundrland	15	6	7	2	18	14	25
Tranmere	14	6	6	2	26	14	24
West Brom	15	7	3	5	22	18	24
Barnsley	15	6	4	5	22	27	22
Charlton	15	5	7	3	19	14	22
Oldham	15	5	6	4	21	17	21
Norwich	15	5	6	4	21	18	21
Huddersfld	15	6	3	6	20	22	21
Grimsby	15	5	6	4	16	17	21
Ipswich	15	5	5	5	26	23	20
Southend	15	5	4	6	14	18	19
Stoke	15	4	6	5	20	19	18
Reading	15	4	6	5	20	22	18
Derby	15	4	6	5	17	23	18
Wolvrhmptn	15	4	5	6	18	20	17
C Palace	14	4	5	5	16	19	17
Watford	15	3	6	6	20	23	15
Sheff Utd	15	4	2	9	21	27	14
Portsmth	15	3	4	8	20	27	13
Port Vale	15	2	6	7	14	20	12
Luton	15	3	3	9	10	22	12

FA Cup

First round

(12) Altrincham v Crewe P
(13) * Barnet v Woking
(14) * Barrow v Nuneaton
(15) Blackpool v Chester
(16) Bognor Regis v Ashford Town
(—) Bournemouth v Bristol City
(17) Bradford v Burton
(18) Brentford v Farnborough
(19) Bury v Blyth Spartans
(—) * Carlisle v Preston
(—) Cinderford T v Bromsgrove
(20) Exeter v Peterborough
(21) Fulham v Swansea
(—) * Gravesend and N v Colchester
(22) * Hartlepool v Darlington
(23) Hereford v Stevenage
(24) * Hitchin v Bristol Rovers
(25) Hull v Wrexham
(26) Kidderminster v Sutton Utd
(—) Kingstonian v Wisbech
(27) Mansfield v Doncaster
(—) Newport (IoW) v Enfield
(28) Northampton v Hayes
(29) Northwich v Scunthorpe
(30) Oxford Utd v Dorchester
(31) Rochdale v Rotherham
(32) * Runcorn v Wigan
(—) * Rushden and D v Cardiff
(33) * Scarborough v Chesterfield
(34) Shrewsbury v Marine
(—) Slough v Plymouth
(—) Spennymoor v Colwyn Bay
(35) Stockport v Lincoln C
(36) Swindon v Cambridge Utd
(37) Telford v Witton
(38) Torquay v Leyton Orient
(39) Wycombe v Gillingham P

Vauxhall Conference

(—) Dagenham and Red v Gateshead
(—) Halifax v Kettering
(—) Hednesford v Dover
(—) Macclesfield v Stalybridge
(—) Morecambe v Bath

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Barry (2.30), Bangor City v Briton Ferry, Caernarfon v Newtown, Ebbw Vale v Llansantffraid (2.30), Holywell v Conwy (2.30); Inter Cardiff v Caersws, Porthmadog v Connah's Quay, Rhyl v Cemaes Bay, Ton Pentre v Flint Town

Bell's Scottish League

Premier division

(40) Falkirk v Hibernian
(41) Hearts v Kilmarnock
(42) Partick v Celtic
(43) Raith v Motherwell
(44) Rangers v Aberdeen

First division

(45) Airdrie v Dumbarton
(46) Clydebank v Dunfermline
(47) Dundee v Greenock Morton
(48) St Johnstone v Hamilton
(49) St Mirren v Dundee Utd

Second division

(50) Berwick v Clyde
(51) Forfar v Ayr
(52) Montrose v East Fife
(53) Stirling v Stenhousemuir
(54) Stranraer v Queen Of South

Third division

(55) Arbroath v Alloa
(56) Cowdenbeath v Albion
(57) Livingston v East Stirling
(58) Queen's Park v Caley This
(—) Ross County v Brechin

OTHER MATCH: West Ham v Chelsea

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Chelmsford v Atherstone, Cheltenham v Newport AFC, Gresley v VS Rugby, Halesowen v Ilkeston, Hastings v Salisbury, Stafford v Gloucester, Sudbury v Merthyr, Worcester v Crawley. Southern division: Clevedon v Fareham; Erith and Belvedere v Fisher 93; Fleet v Havant, Forest Green v Braintree; Margate v Yate; Poole v Sittingbourne, Trowbridge v Witney, Weymouth v Waterlooville. Midland division: Bedworth v Corby; Bilston v Evesham; Bridgnorth v Buckingham; Bury Town v Moor Green; King's Lynn v RC Warwick, Rothwell v Paget R; Solihull v Grantham, Stourbridge v Hinckley Town; Sutton Coldfield v Redditch, Tamworth v Dudley.

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop's Stortford v St Albans; Boreham Wood v Carshalton, Bromley v Yeading; Dulwich v Purfleet, Harrow v Chertsey; Molesey v Yeovil, Walton and Hersham v Hendon. First division: Barton Rovers v Leyton Pennant; Berkhamsted v Heybridge Swifts, Billericay v Ruislip Manor; Maidenhead United v Wokingham, Marlow v Staines, Oxford City v Wembley; Thame v Abingdon Town, Tooting and Mitcham v Basingstoke, Uxbridge v Barking; Whyteleafe v Aldershot Town. Second division: Banstead v Metropolitan Police, Chalfont St Peter v Egham; Collier Row v Tilbury; Croydon v Bedford, Edgware v Leatherhead; Hampton v Bracknell; Hungerford v Hemel Hempstead; Saffron Walden v Dorking; Wivenhoe v Cheshunt. Third division: Clapton v Kingsbury, Cove v Aveley; East Thurrock v Epsom and Ewell; Flackwell Heath v Hertford; Harefield v Wingate and Finchley, Horsham v Southall. Leighton v Windsor and Eton, Lewes v Harlow; Tring v Wealdstone

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington Stanley v Guiseley; Bishop Auckland v Matlock; Chorley v Gainsborough, Emley v Droylsden, Frickley v Bamber Bridge, Hyde v Leek, Knowsley v Buxton; Winsford v Boston. First division: Bradford Park Avenue v Leigh; Congleton v Whitley Bay; Eastwood Town v Radcliffe; Great Harwood v Atherton LR; Harrogate Town v Ashton United; Lancaster v Alfreton; Netherfield v Farsley Celtic; Workington v Curzon Ashton; Worksop v Gretna.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Basildon v Stansted, Brentwood v Hullbridge Sports; East Ham v Southend Manor; Ford v Burnham Ramblers, Great Wakering v Eton Manor; Maldon v Romford; Sawbridgeworth v Bowers.

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Amersham v Beaconsfield SYCOB; Cockfosters v Hanwell v Hillingdon, Corinthian-Casuals v Willesden; Croydon v Waltham Abbey; Hanwell v Woolwich; St Margaretsbury v Brook House; Tottenham Omada v Barkingside. Tufnell Park v Brimsdown.

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cobham v Bedfont, DCA Basingstoke v Cranleigh, Godalming and Guildford v Hartley Wintney; Merstham v Eton Wick, Peppard v Walton Casuals; Raynes Park Vale v Reading; Westfield v Ash. League Cup: Second round: Ashford v Viking Sports; Chipstead v Feltham, Farnham v Sandhurst; Horley v Netherne

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Biggleswade v Arlesey Town; Brache Sparta v London Colney; Dunstable v Letchworth; Hoddesdon v Langford; Royston v Hatfield; Harpenden v Welwyn Garden City

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Backwell v Taunton; Barnstaple v Odd Down, Brislington v Tiverton; Bristol MF v Frome; Elmore v Torrington; Mangotsfield v Bideford, Paulton v Bridport.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cornard v Lowestoft; Diss v Haverhill, Fakenham v Harwich and Parkeston; Felixstowe v Halstead, Hadleigh U v Great Yarmouth; March v Clacton, Tiptree v Sudbury; Watton v Sudbury Res, Woodbridge v Soham; Wroxham v Newmarket.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Aerostructures v Thatcham; Totton v Eastleigh; Bournemouth v Wimborne. Brockenhurst v Christchurch; Cowes Sports v Lymington; Downton v Whitchurch; East Cowes v BAT; Gosport v Ryde Sp; Swanage and Herston v Andover.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Crowborough v Burgess Hill; Eastbourne Town v Whitehawk; Hailsham v Horsham YMCA, Hassocks v Shoreham; Mile Oak v Langney Sports; Peacehaven and Telscombe v Southwick; Portfield v Stamco; Three Bridges v Arundel; Wick v Oakwood. John O'Hara League Cup: Second round: Newhaven v Pagham. Third round: Ringmer v Worthing.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v Canterbury; Cray v Herne Bay, Crockenhill v Chatham; Faversham v Dartford; Folkestone Invicta v Deal; Furness v Thamesmead; Hythe v Greenwich, Slade Green v Ramsgate. Tunbridge Wells v Sheppey; Whitstable v Corinthian.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon United v Almondsbury, Banbury v Fairford. Brackley v Kintbury; Burnham v Endsleigh; Cirencester v Carterton. Didcot v Shortwood, Highworth v Bicester. North Leigh v Lambourn Sports

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Desborough v St Neots, Holbeach v Northampton Spencer. Kempston v Bourne; Long Buckby v Stotfold, Newport Pagnell v Raunds, Spalding v S and L Corby; Wootton v Wellingborough. League Cup: First round: Irchester v Eynesbury, Potton v Cogenhoe

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Blakenhall v Shepshed D, Boldmere St M v Stratford; Halesowen Harriers v Chasetown, Oldbury v Hinckley Athletic. Pershore v Boldmere, Rocester v Rushall, Sandwell v Armitage, Shifnal v Stapenhill. West Midlands Police v Willenhall

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Ansells v Coleshill, Bloxwich v Coventry Sphinx, Kings Heath v Wellesbourne; Meir KA v Studley BKL; Northfield v Massey Ferguson, Southam v Knowle, Upton v Chelmsley. President's Cup: Second round: Thimblemill Rec v Richmond Swifts. Carlsberg Cup: Second round: Highgate v Newall

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Darlaston v Brierley Hill, Hill Top R v Wednesfield, Lichfield v Gornal; Ludlow v Bloxwich, Lye v Walsall Wood, Pelsall Villa v Cradley; Tividale v Ettingshall, Westfields v Stourport. Wolverhampton City v Malvern.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare v North Ferriby, Arnold v Ossett Town, Ashfield v Thackley; Goole v Hatfield Main, Hallam v Belper. Liversedge v Denaby. Ossett Albion v Glasshoughton Welfare. League Cup: Second round: Eccleshill v Winterton, Garforth v Immingham; Hall Road v Pontefract Collieries, Harrogate Railway v Borrowash Victoria, Louth v Blidworth Welfare, Tadcaster v Selby. Yorkshire Amateurs v Rossington Main.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ards v Linfield, Cliftonville v Bangor, Glentoran v Glenavon. Portadown v Crusaders.

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Sligo v Drogheda (7.30).

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Consett v Bedlington Terriers, Durham v Ferryhill; Eppleton CW v RTM Newcastle, Murton v Peterlee, Seaham Red Star v Tow Law; Shildon v Billingham, West Auckland v Guisborough; Whickham v Chester-le-Street; Whitby v Dunston Federation.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE CUP: Second round: Ashton Town v Darwen; Atherton Collieries v Eastwood Hanley; Bootle v Holker Old Boys, Burscough v Stantondale, Daisy Hill v Blackpool Rovers, Flixton v Rossendale, Glossop North End v Salford, Kidsgrove v Clitheroe; Maghull v Bacup, Maine Road v Prescot, Mossley v Nantwich; Nelson v Skelmersdale, Newcastle Town v Chadderton, Penrith v Vauxhall GM; St Helens v Trafford

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Arsenal v Charlton.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Liverpool v Leeds (at Southport, 2.0)

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Arsenal v Leyton Orient, Cambridge Utd v Millwall; Charlton Ath v Norwich. Fulham v Southend; Ipswich v Chelsea, Tottenham Hotspur v Portsmouth; Watford v QPR, West Ham v Gillingham

SCHOOLS MATCHES (10.30 unless stated) FA Premier League Under-19 Trophy: Durham v Cleveland (at Durham University) English Schools Fuji Film Trophy: Third round: Carlisle v Burnley. Woking v St Albans. Southern Counties Cup: Aldershot v Gosport, Havant v Portsmouth, Vale of White Horse v East Berks. London Corinthian Shield: Barking v Harrow. Hackney v Basildon, North Kent v Brent. London Hawke Trophy: Harlow v South London. London Pearl Trophy: Brent v Luton, Hackney v Islington. Essex Smeathers Trophy: Havering v Basildon. Gazette Trophy Final: Holloway v South Camden. London Crisp Shield: Islington v Croydon. Goodhand Trophy: Derby v Nottingham; Scunthorpe v Hull. Hereward Trophy: South Notts v North Leicester. Yorkshire Trophy: Leeds v Harrogate. Kay Trophy: Hackney v Wandsworth. Cheshire Cup: Stockport v Wirral. Snowdon Cup: Liverpool v Sefton. Inter Association: Bexley v Ashford, Chester v St Helens; Luton v Cambridge.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: NatWest Bank v O Esthameians, Norsemen v West Wickham. Second division: O Bromleians v O Latymerians. O Stationers v Midland Bank. Third division: Cuaco v Alleyn OB, O Salesians v Reigate Priory

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Etonians v Chigwellians. First division: Bradfieldians v Haberdashers', Salopians v Harrovians; Wykehamists v Ardinians.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Hale End Athletic v Albanian. O Owens v O Grammarians, Witan v Nottsborough. Senior two: Ealing Association v Honourable Artillery Co, O Woodhouseians v City of London. UCL Academicals v O Bealonians

OLD BOYS' LEAGUE: Premier division: Clapham v Cardinal Manning. Senior first division: O Tenisonians Res v O Suttonians, O Wilsonians v O Kingsburians.

FA YOUTH CUP: First round: Everton v Notts County. Blackburn v Sheffield Wednesday

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardiff v Fife (6.15); Milton Keynes v Durham (6.30), Sheffield v Slough (7.0). First division: Bracknell v Dumfries (6.0). Murrayfield v Medway (7.0), Paisley v Solihull (7.0). Swindon v Peterborough (5.30), Telford v Billingham (7.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Regal Trophy

Second round

Keighley v St Helens (1.10)
Workington v St Estève (3.0)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Dudley Hill v Saddleworth (2.30), Egremont v Lock Lane (2.30). Hemel Hempstead v Mayfield (2.30). Postponed: Leigh Miners Welfare v Millom.

LACROSSE

SHEPHERDS FRIENDLY SOCIETY LEAGUE: Premier division: Cheadle Hulme v Boardman and Eccles; Timperley v Heaton Mersey. Sheffield Steelers v Mellor, Hulmeians v Poynton. Old Waconians v Stockport.

RUGBY UNION

Kick 3.0 unless stated

CIS Insurance International

Wales v Fiji
(at Cardiff Arms Park)

Courage Clubs Championship

First division

Bath v West Hartlepool (2.15)
Bristol v Wasps
Harlequins v Orrell
Sale v Gloucester
Saracens v Leicester (2.30)

Second division

Bedford v Wakefield
Blackheath v Nottingham
London Scottish v Waterloo
Newcastle v Moseley
Northampton v London Irish

Third division

Coventry v Richmond
Fylde v Morley (2.30)
Harrogate v Otley (2.15)
Rotherham v Reading (2.30)
Rugby v Rosslyn Park

Fourth division

Clifton v Exeter
Leeds v Aspatria (2.30)
London Welsh v Liverpool SH (2.45)
Plymouth v Redruth (2.30)
Walsall v Havant (2.15)

Fifth division north

Kendal v Sheffield (2.30)
Nuneaton v Birmingham S'hull (2.30)
Stoke v Lichfield (2.30)
Stourbridge v Preston G'hoppers (2.30)
Winnington Pk v Broughton Pk (2.30)
Worcester v Wharfedale (2.30)

Fifth division south

Askeans v Barking (2.30)
Berry Hill v Camberley (2.30)
Camborne v Henley (2.30)
Cheltenham v North Walsham (2.30)
High Wycombe v Tabard (2.30)
Lydney v Met Police (2.30)

LONDON: First division: Basingstoke v Harlow; Esher v Sudbury; Guildford and Godalming v Staines. Old Colfeians v Sutton and Epsom; Old Mid-Whitgiftians v Charlton Park, Ruislip v Ealing

SOUTH WEST: First division: Bridgwater v Taunton, Brixham v Barnstaple, Cinderford v Salisbury; Gloucester OB v St Ives, Matson v Maidenhead; Sherborne v Newbury

MIDLANDS: First division: Barker's Butts v Burton; Camp Hill v Broadstreet; Leighton Buzzard v Hereford. Stafford v Leamington; Whitchurch v Westleigh; Wolverhampton v Mansfield

NORTH: First division: Huddersfield v Bradford and Bingley; Hull Ionians v Wigton, Manchester v Tynedale; Stockton v Middlesbrough, West Park Bramhope v Macclesfield; York v Bridlington

Tennents Premiership

First division

Edinburgh Acads v Melrose (2.0)

Second division

Dundee HSFP v Jed-Forest (2.0)
Kelso v Glasgow HK (2.0)
Selkirk v Currie (2.0)
Stewart's Mel FP v W of Scotland (2.0)

Third division

Corstorphine v Grangemouth (2.0)
Glasgow Acads v Preston Lodge (2.0)
Kirkcaldy v Biggar (2.0)
Musselburgh v Peebles (2.0)

Fourth division

Edinburgh W v Glasgow Sthn (2.0)
Gordonians v Ayr (2.0)
Haddington v Wigtownshire (2.0)
Kilmarnock v Langholm (2.0)

Club matches

Barry v Llanishen (11.0)
Glamorgan W v Weston-s-Mare (11.0)
Chepstow v Newport Utd (12.0)
Old Penarthians v Tumble (11.30)

Under-21 tournament

Scotland v Wales
(at London Welsh, 11.30)

HOCKEY

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Teddington v Old Loughtonians (Teddington School 1.30)

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Anchorians v Maidenhead; Chichester v Lions; Fareham v Lewes, Gore Court v Oxford Hawks; High Wycombe v Wimbledon; Newbury v Bournemouth; Old Kingstonians v Beckenham, Spencer v Winchester, Woking v Old Walcountians; Wokingham v Ashford. Hampshire/Surrey: Andover v London University; Basingstoke v Oxted; Blandford v Old Cranleighans; Epsom v Barnes, Old Mid Whitgiftians v Dulwich; Oxshott v Old Whitgiftians; Solent HC v Petersfield, Purley v Camberley; Southampton v Cheam, Walton and Weybridge v Old Edwardians. Kent/Sussex: Horsham v Middleton, Mid Sussex v Crawley; Old Beccehamians v Blackheath; Old Bordenians v Marden Russets; Old Holcombeians v Belvedere. Old Williamsonians v Herne Bay; Sevenoaks v Bexley Invicta; Tulse Hill v Brighton, Tunbridge Wells v Bexleyheath; Worthing v Bognor. Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon: Eastcote v City of Oxford, Harrow v Bracknell; Hayes v Staines; HCC v Amersham, Hendon v Headington, Marlow v OMT, Mill Hill v ETESSA; Milton Keynes v Sunbury; NPL v Richings Park; PHC Chiswick v Ramgarhia

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Ben Rhydding v Southport, Harrogate v Sheffield Bankers, Neston v Formby; Norton v Halifax; Timperley v Warrington; Tynemouth v Hull

ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Bishop's Stortford v Chelmsford; Bury St Edmunds v Bedford Town; Cambridge City v Colchester, Cambridge University v Ipswich; Peterborough Town v Redbridge and Ilford. Premier division B: Brentwood v Dereham; Clacton v Old Southendian; Luton Town v Norwich City, Sudbury v Stevenage, Westcliff v Romford.

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE LEAGUE: Premier division: Bridgnorth v North Notts; Hampton-in-Arden v Bloxwich; Harborne v Loughborough Students; John Player v Belper; Khalsa v Nottingham

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bracknell v Slough, Clifton v Sutton Canada Life, Doncaster v Balsam Leicester; Ipswich v Hightown. First division: Bradford Swithenbank v Sunderland Bedans, Chelmsford v Canterbury, Exmouth v Blueharts, Trojans v Wimbledon. Second division: Aldridge v Olton; Ealing v Woking, Sherwood v Reading; St Albans v Loughborough

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: European super-middleweight championship: Henry Wharton (York, holder) v Sam Storey (Belfast) (Northgate Leisure Centre, Halifax)

CYCLING: Liverpool Century Cyclo-Cross (Otterspool Park, 2.0).

EQUESTRIANISM: Volvo World Cup (Millstreet, Ireland).

ICE SKATING: British championships (Basingstoke).

NETBALL: International: England v Cook Islands (Manchester, 2.30).

SWIMMING: Grand Prix meeting (Cumbernauld)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket*

FA Cup

First round

* Canvey Island v Brighton (1.0)
York v Notts County (4.0)

Endsleigh Insurance League

First division

Wolverhampton v Charlton (2.55)

OTHER MATCH: Middlesbrough v Sampdoria.

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Shamrock v Bohemians (2.30).

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: Ilkeston v Doncaster Belles; Liverpool FC Ladies v Millwall Lionesses, Villa Aztecs v Croydon, Wembley v Arsenal, Wolverhampton v Everton.

UK LIVING WOMEN'S FA CUP: Third round: Oldham v Liverpool Feds, Bangor Girls v Huddersfield, Bronte v Stockport, Blackburn v Manchester; Middlesbrough v Manchester Belle Vue, Newcastle v Wakefield; Coventry v Sheffield Wednesday, Kilnhurst v Highfield, Tranmere v Garswood/St Helens, Leyton Orient v Langford, Ipswich v Denham, Canary Racers v Mill Hill, Bedford Belles v Berkhamsted; Chelsea v Palace Eagles. Brighton and Hove v Dulwich Hamlet. Barnet v Whitehawk; Newham v Tottenham Hotspur; Oxford United v Thame United. Swindon Spitfires v Southampton Saints, Plymouth Pilgrims v Barry; Inter Cardiff v Sherborne, Frome v Binfield

RUGBY UNION

Tour match

Scotland A v Western Samoans
(at Hawick, 1.30)

CIS Insurance under-21 county championship

South West

Pool one

Berkshire v Oxfordshire
(at Berkshire Shire Hall, 2.30)

Under-21 tournament

Ireland v Scotland (11.30)
Wales v Ireland (2.30)
(both at London Welsh)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Regal Trophy

Second round

Batley v Wakefield (3.15)
Bradford v Sheffield
Bramley v Hunslet
Carlisle v Castleford (2.0)
Chorley v Warrington
Dewsbury v Barrow
Halifax v Swinton
Huddersfield v Featherstone (3.30)
Hull v York (3.15)
Hull KR v Rochdale (3.15)
Leeds v Salford
London Broncos v Highfield
Widnes v Oldham
Wigan v Whitehaven

HOCKEY

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Barford Tigers v Havant (Holyhead LC, 1.0), Bournville v Stourport (Grangehill, 2.30); Cannock v Canterbury (Morris Ground, 2.30). Hounslow v Hull (Dukes Meadow, Chiswick, 2.0): Reading v Guildford (Sonning Lane, 2.0). Southgate v Indian Gymkhana (Broomfield School, 2.0). Surbiton v East Grinstead (Sugden Road, 2.30). Trojans v St Albans (Stoneham Lane, Eastleigh, 1.30). Second division: Beeston v Edgbaston (Highfields, Nottingham, 2.0). Blueharts v City of Portsmouth (Hitchin Boys School, 2.0). Bromley v Sheffield (Priory LC, Orpington, 1.30). Brooklands v Slough (Georges Road, Sale, 1.45); Crostyx v Gloucester City (Chigwell, 1.0). Firebrands v Richmond (Longwood, Bristol, 2.0); Hampstead and Westminster v Oxford University (Paddington Recreation Ground, 12.30); Isca v Harleston Magpies (Exeter School, 1.0): Olton and West Warwickshire v Doncaster (Grange Road, Solihull, 2.0).

HA CLUB TROPHY: First round: Brigg v March Town; De Montfort University v Long Sutton; Essex Police v Cambridgeshire Nomads, Felixstowe v Norwich City. Gorleston v Sudbury. Harpenden v Rickmansworth, Havering v West Herts. Horncastle v Wisbech. Huntingdon v Brentwood, Ipswich and East Suffolk v Little Baddow. Letchworth v Romford; Luton Town v Braintree. Peterborough Athletic v Spalding. Royston v Broadland. St Neots v Leighton Buzzard. Vauxhall v Ramgarhia. Wapping v Stevenage. Welwyn Garden City v Ford, Witham v Norwich Union; Woodhall Spa v Pelicans

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke v Cardiff (6.30). Durham v Newcastle (6.30); Humberside v Fife (5.45). Slough v Nottingham (6.30). First division: Billingham v Bracknell (5.15). Blackburn v Peterborough (6.0). Chelmsford v Swindon (6.30). Guildford v Dumfries (5.15). Manchester v Telford (6.0). Murrayfield v Solihull (6.30), Paisley v Medway (6.30).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: European men's championship: Semi-final round: England v Germany (at Ponds Forge International Sports Centre, Sheffield, 6.0).

BOWLS: European team championship (Jersey).

CYCLING: National Trophy cycle-cross series, second round (Aldersley Stadium, Wolverhampton, 2.0)

EQUESTRIANISM: Volvo World Cup (Millstreet, Ireland)

SWIMMING: Grand Prix meeting (Cumbernauld)

Saturday Portrait: David Platt, by Andrew Longmore

Costly football nomad driven on by desire for highest honours

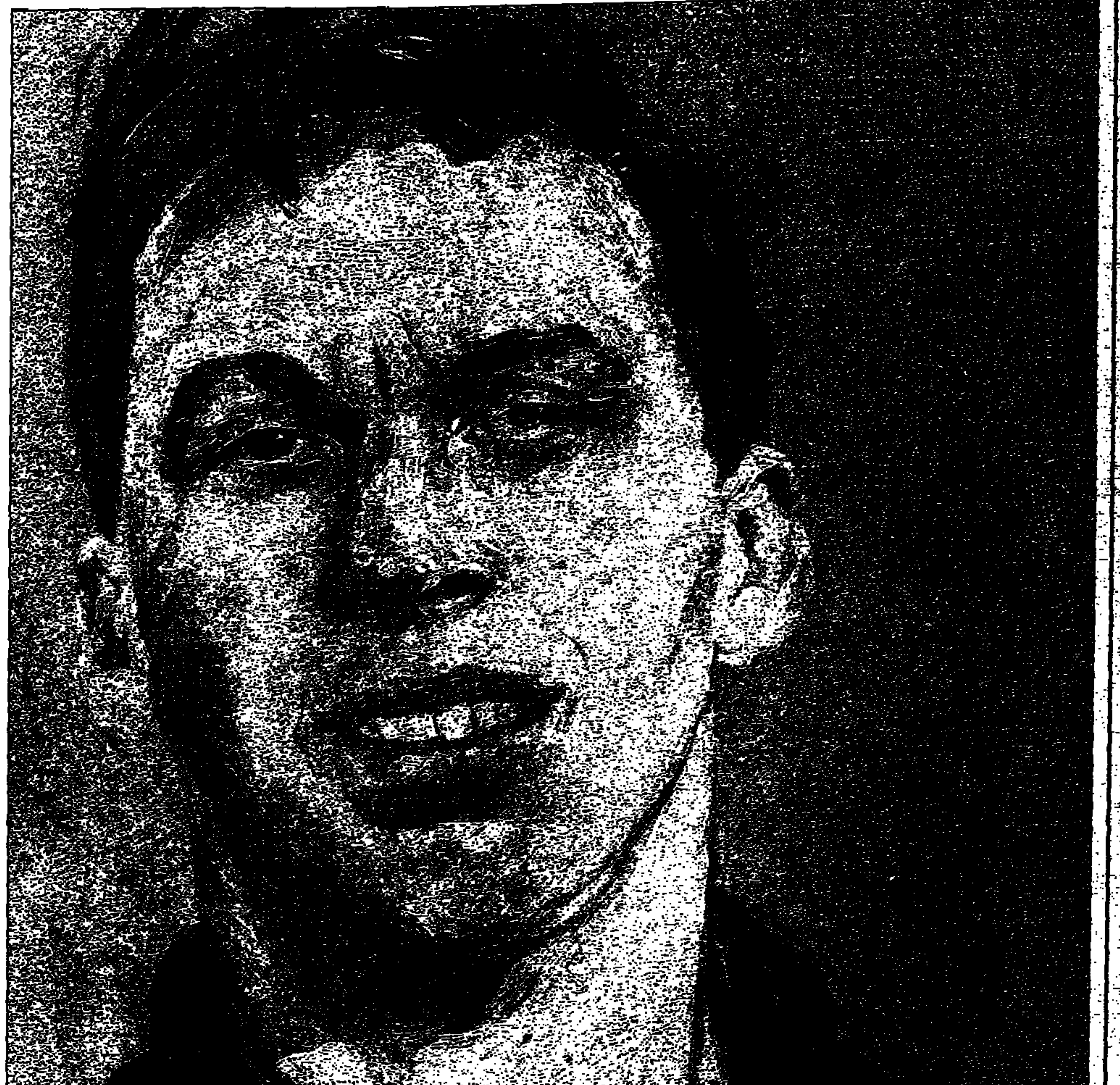


ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN

At Crewe, when you mention The Goal, the off-the-shoulder number against Belgium that took England through to the quarter-finals of the 1990 World Cup and sent grown men out onto darkened streets to dance for joy, they will scoff at you. The few who remember will, at least. That was nothing, they will say. I saw the Real Goal. Not many did, just 2,403 supporters and Dario Gradi, the manager of Crewe Alexandra then, in April 1987, and now.

"He was coming into the box on a diagonal run, against Stockport at home, when the cross came over," Gradi recalls. "He just took off and cracked this overhead kick into the roof of the net. The half-time whistle went almost immediately, and I was walking off just saying to anyone and everyone: 'Did you see that?' It was an absolutely brilliant goal."

Whether the Real Goal convinced Gradi that he had a future England captain on his hands at Gresty Road, he is too level-headed, too honest, to say, but £22.15 million later, he can look back with some satisfaction on his minor part in the making of the world's most expensive footballer in combined transfer fees. And to think, when Graham Taylor took David Platt to Aston Villa for £200,000 in the middle of the 1987-88 season, he reckoned the price was £50,000 too high.

Taylor had dragged his wife along to Newport on a cold, wet night to watch Platt, and came away impressed by one piece of action. Not just the flashing header with which Platt finished the move, but the 70-yard run which had taken him into position for it.

Gradi told Taylor that his investment would be a gilt-edged bargain when he found out a) what a super guy his new purchase was, and b) what a phenomenal athlete he was. Wise words. Platt has made a very decent living out of being a thoroughly good pro, willing to work hard, train hard and keep out of trouble, qualities rare enough these days to be worth big money, quite apart from the unerring instinct that the young man from Chadderton, near Manchester, has always had for that most priceless commodity: scoring goals.

Platt has marked this last week in two ways. First, by being recalled to the England squad for the international against Switzerland on Wednesday and, second, by publishing a book he wrote himself. It is called *Achieving The Goal* and is stylish enough to suggest that he could follow family tradition by swapping shooting boots for the pen. His father was production director of *The Guardian* in Manchester and much of Platt's ease with the media has stemmed from his natural understanding of the business.

The themes of the autobiography are clear enough. One is Platt's lust for scoring goals, often quaintly dismissed in phrases like: "I was lucky enough to score a hat-trick . . ." The other is his insatiable appetite for being transferred. He simply loves all the cloak-and-dagger stuff, the agonising decisions, the late-night talks, the on-off deals. Hardly a page goes by without a transfer deal being offered or closed.

> 'For all the millions in the bank, two medals are not an adequate fulfilment of his career'

At a conservative estimate, Hull City, Leicester City, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Hibernian, Watford, Nottingham Forest and Blackburn Rovers have all, at one time or another, been interested in acquiring Platt's services, besides Crewe, Aston Villa and Arsenal, the three clubs he has played league football for in England after his early release — a costly one — from Manchester United.

Platt, like the rest of us, loves to be wanted. But one can sense in every move, at the heart of every whispered phone call, that the key element is not self-gratification, not massaging of the ego, nor even bolstering of confidence, but the desire to get better.

Gradi has forgotten it, but Platt recalls in his early days at Crewe how he was jolted out of his complacency. At the time, Platt thought he was doing pretty well. Gradi knew he could do better, and told him so. It was a delicate psychological moment, but Gradi had chosen the right man. Instead of sulking, Platt took the advice to heart, began working harder, and the following summer laid the physical groundwork for those relentless, barrel-chested, high-stepping runs from deep that have made him such an outstanding and coveted international player since his England debut as a substitute against Italy in 1989.

The same strand of cussedness, of wanting to achieve, coloured Platt's decision to return to English football this season after five years with Bari, Juventus and Sampdoria. The night he made up his mind, he stood and looked over the Mediterranean from the balcony of his 15th-century castle in Genoa, thought about the five-minute car journey to the training ground, the crystal-clear sea, his friends, the restaurants, his elegant lifestyle, and then he walked back into his living-room and signed for Arsenal.

Why? For the simple reason that he wanted a league championship medal, and Arsenal, he felt, had a more realistic chance of helping him to win one than Sampdoria. One Italian Cup, with Sampdoria, and one Uefa Cup winner's medal, with Juventus, are not, in Platt's view, an adequate fulfilment of his career, for all the millions in the bank. And, at the age of 29, time is moving on.

Platt might find just how far it has gone when Terry Venables picks his England team this week. Platt, his first captain, has been out with a knee injury, and in his absence, Jamie Redknapp and Steve McManaman have settled so impressively into the midfield alongside Paul Gascoigne that a recall to colours will not be automatic. Whether a team desperately short of goals can afford to pass over a player who has scored 26 in 55 internationals is another matter.

For all the impressive ratio, opinions still differ about Platt's true ability. Jim Courier, the American tennis player, once said that it was too simple to say that some players were gifted. Gifted for what? Some players, he said, had a gift for hard work and discipline, others for playing great shots. Both were gifts. Platt's gift is his common sense, both on and off the field, and his instinctive understanding of his own limitations. Platt will rarely try anything beyond his reach, and therefore his mistakes are rare. He is anxiety-free.

"The one person I don't have to worry about before my head hits the pillow is David Platt," Taylor once said. He also said: "His product continually exceeds his talent." Reliability and over-production; golden qualities for managers, if not for spectators. Platt is not a player obviously missed, but it was his energy, his and Lineker's goals, that drove England to the semi-finals of the World Cup in Italy, for all Gascoigne's headline-hogging antics, and it seems inconceivable that a place will not be found for the leading international goalscorer in the land when the European championship is in the balance.

Perhaps we want too much. It should be sufficient that, on football's sleazy street, Platt should stand out for his decency and for his knack of bringing the decency out of others. After £22.15 million worth of hopes and dreams, not one of his former clubs would close their doors to him now. That might yet prove to be his greatest achievement. And the goal against Stockport County, of course.

Depleted Pakistan made to pay heavy price for missed catches

From Michael Henderson
in Brisbane

AFTER two days in the baking Queensland heat, Australia's cricketers have established such a stranglehold on the first Test here that Pakistan would consider a draw good news indeed. Their first innings is only 17 overs old, yet they have lost three wickets for 40 and trail Australia by 423 runs.

To avoid following on, therefore, the remaining seven wickets must add a further 224, and there is no certainty that Salim Malik will bat until he actually appears at the crease. As his team-mates suffered another enervating day in the field, spilling three chances to make it eight in the innings, he was nursing his newly-stitched left hand and brooding on a life that is bringing him little joy.

Towards the end of the afternoon, with Australia nine wickets down, Waqar Younis joined him in the casualty ward with cramp. He came into this match short of full fitness but was beginning to swing the ball when he took crook.

To soothe their fevered brows, they needed to bat through the last hour without losing a wicket. Instead, McDermott, returning to the Australia side after missing the victorious series in the Caribbean, ripped out Elahi in his fifth over when Taylor accepted the sort of slip catch beyond the Pakistanis.

Taylor is in particularly fine form. He held seven catches in a recent Sheffield Shield game and now, having brought on Warne, he snaffled another smart one when Ramiz Raja, softened up by the flipper, played a hesitant push to the next ball, a pukka leg spinner, which took the edge.

Bravely, Saqlain, the 18-year-old off spinner who had bowled 44 overs in the Australia innings, volunteered to provide the nightwatch and then ran three in the last over, so that Sohail could rest for the morrow. McGrath hunted his quarry. First he beat him with one that left the bat, then he found the perfect yorker, earning a leg-before decision from the last ball of the day.

It was another New South Wales player who had hogged the spotlight for most of it. Steve Waugh's ninth Test hundred, 112 not out, was one of those durable efforts (a shade over six hours) that makes him so valuable to the Australia middle order. There were only seven boundaries in it but, so long as he and Blewett were adding 135 for the fifth wicket, denying the Pakistanis the breakthrough they needed, he was doing the job required of him.

Blewett scraped together an undistinguished half-century until Waqar swung one into his front pad. Healy then pulled towards deep mid-wicket, where Mushtaq Ahmed, the substitute fielder, held an excellent catch on the run. It was out of keeping with the rest of the out-cricket, which was lamentable. When Waugh reached his century from one of many misfields (by Mushtaq, incidentally), it seemed entirely apt.

Twice in one over from Sohail, he should have perished. Inzamam, dozing at slip, missed an edge that struck him on the shoulder when Waugh was on 85. Two runs later, Moin Khan, an inadequate wicketkeeper, managed to miss a nick and a stumping chance in the same motion. He then dropped Reiffel off Mohammad Akram, diving across first slip. With safer hands, Pakistan would have saved themselves 141 certain runs and, conservatively, a good 40 more had their ground fielding been up to scratch.

Waqar did his best to finish off the tail before he limped away. Reiffel, leg-before, and McDermott, bowled, were victims of inswingers on a full length. Warne edged Sohail to Moin, who also stumped McGrath when the Australian went on the charge to the same bowler.

Waugh, who survived Wasim's late burst on the first evening, when he offered the first of three chances, is clearly one of life's chosen. This century followed his 200 in Jamaica in April, the innings that set up Australia's series-clinching victory. To beat Australia, it seems, you must get him early, or run up a hefty debt.

Steve Waugh: solid century

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First innings

*M A Taylor c Salim b Saqlain	69
M J Slater c Mohammad b Wasim	42
D C Boon c Inzamam b Wasim	54
M E Waugh c Elahi b Saqlain	59
S R Waugh not out	112
G S Blewett lbw b Waqar	57
†I A Healy c sub b Mohammad	18
P R Reiffel lbw b Waqar	9
S K Warne c Moin b Aamir	5
C J McDermott b Waqar	8
G McGrath st Moin b Aamir	5
Extras (b2, lb6, w4, nb13)	25
Total	463

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-107, 2-119, 3-213, 4-250, 5-385, 6-411, 7-434, 8-441, 9-452

BOWLING: Wasim 38-9-84-2; Waqar 29.5-7-101-3; Mohammad 33.1-4-97-1, Saqlain 44-12-130-2. Aamir 16.5-2-43-2.

PAKISTAN: First innings

Salim Elahi c Taylor b McDermott	11
Aamir Sohail not out	17
Ramiz Raja c Taylor b Warne	8
Saqlain Mushtaq lbw b McGrath	0
Extras (lb1, nb3)	4
Total (3 wkts)	40

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-37, 3-40.

Inzamam-ul-Haq, Salim Malik, Basit Ali, †Moin Khan, *Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and Mohammad Akram to bat.

BOWLING: McDermott 6-2-15-1: McGrath 7-1-17-1; Warne 4-2-7-1.

Umpires: S Randell and K Liebenberg (South Africa).

Resolute White stakes his claim

CRAIG WHITE, who broke his right thumb nine days ago, took four for 36 as the England A cricketers won a one-day practice match against the Gymkhana club side by 40 runs in Lahore yesterday.

Nasser Hussain, the captain, and John Emburey, the team manager, regard the Yorkshire all-rounder as a key player and were glad to see him come through a fitness test in such convincing style. Jason Gallian and Shaun Udal picked up injuries, however, which make them doubtful for the four-day match against a Pakistan Board XI starting today.

Gallian tweaked a hamstring and Udal twisted a knee, but both should be fit for the first international against Pakistan A, which begins next Friday. Gallian hit 46 off 51 balls as England A scored 196 for six in 40 overs.

"I felt the thumb a few times while batting, especially when I jabbed the ball into the ground," White said. "I also felt it when fielding, but it's only pain. You've just got to get on with it. I knew I had to play here if I was to make the team for the first international."

☐ The India team manager, Ajit Wadekar, criticised the Cuttack ground authorities after a rain-soaked pitch caused a second successive blank day in the third and final Test against New Zealand.

Waiting with bubbled bliss and bated breath

SIMON BARNES
On Saturday

FREE champagne! Well, you must admit, it is hard to write a better intro than that. And what is more, it has the added and unusual virtue of being true. I have a great number of bottles of Champagne Nicolas Feuillatte to offer to the deserving. Yes, it has come round to that magic numbers time in sport again.

Last year, I collected from readers scores of sport's magic numbers: 501 for Lara; 10 for Pelé, 4 for Roger Bannister, 3 for Red Rum. That sort of thing. But sport sings with numbers: there must be many new ones this year (3 for Dominic Cork? 13 for rugby union?) and many more old ones that nobody has unearthed.

I offer a bottle of firm and delicately-bubbled bliss for the best ones: get them to me by December 15, and I will print the lot a few days later. I wait with full bottles and bated breath.

Numbers game

Here is a magic number to start everybody off: 2345. Doesn't ring a bell? Then you are insufficiently American. Michael Jordan wore the number 23 on his basketball uniform when he played for Chicago Bulls, a number that was retired when he went off to be a baseball player. Having tasted the salutary fruits of failure, Jordan returned to the Bulls and basketball and took up a new number: 45.

Now, it so happens that the Bulls' home state of Illinois runs a lottery with a "Pick Four" game. You have to pick four numbers and, if they all come up, etc etc. Well, numbers having their magic, as they do, 2345 came up. And, as luck would have it, huge numbers of people had picked it. The state had to pay out $1.82 million, six times more than it collected.

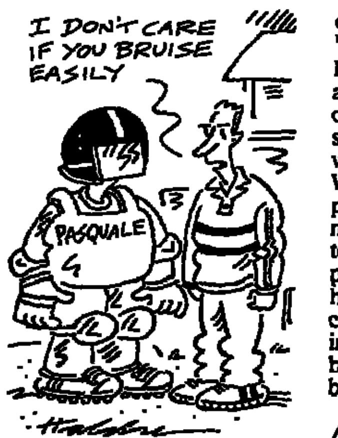
Food for thought

Eric Cantona, the footballer for the gourmet — or do I mean gourmand? — has received yet another tribute to his myriad-mindedness. He has been asked to open the BBC's Good Food Show at the NEC on November 22. As coincidence would have it, Manchester United, Cantona's team, play Coventry City on the same day. Cantona is seeking clearance from his club.

It was Cantona who said: "*On dit que les Anglais sont arrogants. Je dis qu'ils ont la justification,*" or, *en Anglais,* "People say the English are arrogant. I say that they have reason." Does Eric hold this view when it comes to *la cuisine?*

Soft at heart

Pasquale Bruno, the most ruthless and feared defender in Italian football, and known as "The Animal", is having reservations about British football — it really is frightfully rough. Bruno, on a three-game trial with Heart of Midlothian, has said that he really will have to wear a gumshield when he plays.


I DON'T CARE IF YOU BRUISE EASILY
PASQUALE
4

Small beer

I confess that I get awfully confused about rugby union. There was a huge fuss this week when an entrepreneur chucked £2.5 million at Saracens, insisting that this was an amazingly good business deal. Fact: on September 16, Saracens scored a famous victory over Orrell. There were fewer than 900 people present. Wise up, baby: you're in the small time now.

Jonah's wail

Meanwhile, I learn that Jonah Lomu is missing his mum. The New Zealand wing, and the most feared man in rugby union, is on tour in France, and is homesick. "I miss speaking to my mum and dad," he said. "It's pretty hard here." One's heart goes out to the poor little lad. Particular sympathy comes from Tony Underwood, who has always had a soft spot for Lomu. Still more sympathy from Jack Rowell, the England manager, whose brilliant tactical nous came so close to neutralising Lomu in the World Cup semi-final.

Short answer

Last week, this column carried a letter asking for comments on a cricket umpiring decision: a single that was greeted with the signal "one short". W. R. Halls, a practising umpire, suggested that "the batsman never actually bothered to gain his ground and complete the run, ie, either ground his bat or pass the popping crease. A shrewd fielder could in theory have run him out before the next ball was bowled."

Ace of clubs

Ivan Lendl is gearing himself up to try his luck as a professional golfer. The tennis player of legend is likely to take part in the qualifying school for the Australasian PGA to be held in Melbourne in January. Lendl, an obsessive who does nothing by halves, has been a scratch golfer for years. Oddly, though he plays tennis right-handed, he plays golf the other way round. He is now 35. Ten years ago, he went to a London bookie and backed himself, at immensely long odds, to win both a tennis and a golfing major. The task has long been half done: now, clearly, it is time to finish the job. The bet would win him $1 million.

St Helens wary in wounded Cougars' lair

By Christopher Irvine

AS FIRST experiences go, a national television audience will doubtless relish "Cougar-mania" today more than St Helens. An away tie at Keighley Cougars was one of the shorter straws in the second round of the rugby league Regal Trophy.

Allied to a fanatical home support, the unbeaten first division leaders, under the guidance of Phil Larder, the England coach, have the extra incentive of upsetting a member of the Super League, from which they were excluded in April.

That argument, unlike the resentment still felt, has subsided. Keighley have since run into financial difficulties, which is why the BBC cameras and a capacity crowd of 5,800 for the 1.10pm start are especially welcome at the Americanised Cougar Park, previously called Lawkholme Lane.

When the clubs last met, eight years before the Cougar revolution awakened the West Yorkshire town in 1992, Keighley were beaten 60-8 in the John Player Trophy, the sort of drubbing they are now used to inflicting on others. An undefeated run since April 2 extends to 18 matches.

Of St Helens' fickle profit-and-loss account, Larder said: "They have scored 108 points in their last two matches, but they have let in 54, while we have conceded 107 in ten matches. They like to entertain, but with our solid defence we could give them a real surprise."

Injuries to Simon Irving, their goal-kicking centre, and Andre Stoop, have been partially balanced by Daryl Powell, Keighley's England stand-off half, passing a late fitness test.

Tomorrow, Widnes have the best chance of bridging the gap between the first division and the championship when they play at home to a weakened Oldham. Salford can measure the state of their progress at Leeds, for whom Alan Tait returns at full back, Paul Cook is switched to the wing, and Harvey Howard makes his first appearance of the season at prop.

Wigan, the holders, rest Gary Connolly for the visit of Whitehaven. Barrie-Jon Mather takes over in the centre and Scott Quinnell gets one of his infrequent full outings in the second row.

Mike Ford, recently arrived from South Queensland Crushers, starts his first match at scrum half for Warrington in the game at Chorley. Workington have the awkward task today of disposing of the French Cup holders, St Estève.

هكذا من الاصل

Anxious Havelange turns to Africa

Johannson's vision can lead football into next century

ROB HUGHES

Weekend View

It is not only on the playing fields that English football is out of step — almost out of communication, in fact — with Europe and beyond. During the past week, the game here has been embroiled in petty squabbles. The Football Association and the Premier League, upstairs and downstairs occupants of 16 Lancaster Gate, are competing for the same television contracts on behalf of the lesser clubs.

Over at Stamford Bridge, Ken Bates and Matthew Harding are having their spat about control of the club. In court, Terry Venables is fending off damaging allegations, another distraction for the man whose sole purpose is preparing England for something less than humiliation at Euro '96.

Throw in Wimbledon versus authority and George Graham versus decency, and one has a sorry picture of the English in their island. And while we fight among ourselves, we are not at the table when the game becomes altered on a global scale.

On Thursday, spending a day on the shore of Lake Geneva with Lennart Johansson, I saw more ramifications for the game in a matter of hours than one would learn in a month of Super Sundays here. Johansson, the president of Uefa, declared himself a few days ago a candidate, at last, to tackle João Havelange for the presidency of the world authority, Fifa.

Johansson is an Anglophile. He proved that by insisting that English clubs be readmitted to the European competitions. He relishes the English, the British, representation, though he asked pointedly: "Who will be chairman at the FA after my friend Sir Bert [Millichip]?"

Nobody knows. But there is a letter from an Englishman on Johansson's desk. It is signed Gordon Taylor, president of Fifpro, the international players' union. It proposes a whole new transfer system which might appease the European Court in the wake of the Bosman affair. The proposal is for a cap on transfer fees, relating them to age and wages. But think of the English chairmen, think of their gargantuan summer spending, think of the millions at risk if such a proposal becomes law without their input or consideration.

"We have to look at Fifpro's suggestion," Johansson said, "but I will say that too much money has been spent that has not been earned yet ... in all sectors."

The same man, the same Uefa administration, had another important correspondence this week. Ramon Mendoza, the president of Real Madrid, together with Silvio Berlusconi, of AC Milan, are agitating for another crack at forming their own league, their own profits.

"I have written that it is our duty to explain that they are running a great risk," Johansson said. "If they go out of our business, they could be out for a very long time. At least they paid us the respect of agreeing to hold off any action until we can have a brainstorm meeting, Uefa and the clubs, in February."

What Johansson does not deny is that the Champions' League, which has sacrificed the essence of the former European Cup, is a purely financial solution.

He does not defend it as perfect, or as particularly fair. It is a compromise, in a harsh financial sporting world, created to keep Europe together and to help finance the needs of the new countries out of the former Soviet Union.

'No longer does the Fifa executive committee blindly follow its leader'

Johansson is something fresh in football hierarchy. He is prepared to talk openly and honestly, but he needs countries like our own to come with clear minds, with a proper leadership succession, to be partners in thought.

The word vision is central to Johansson. Last Sunday was his 66th birthday, and the day on which this relative youngster (Havelange is in his eightieth year) finally decided that someone, preferably a European, opposes the increasingly whimsical rule of the Brazilian.

A couple of months ago, Johansson delivered two documents, *Vision I* and *Vision II*. "The first person to see *Vision I* was the president [Havelange]. He went up in the air," Johannson said.

Havelange would not even discuss a more democratic system, nor more transparency in financial and television deals. Johannson proposes a rotation of World Cups between the four continents. This means that Europe, with 85 per cent of the game's wealth, was willing to suggest that football belongs equally to the world, and Europe therefore would hold a World Cup once every 16 years.

When Havelange refused rational discussion, Johansson's proposals became a manifesto for his direct opposition. Ostensibly, the fight will be in 1998, but with the documents to be discussed by Fifa's executive on December 11, the contest could happen at any moment.

Meanwhile, where is Havelange? In Nigeria. He went there this week to pow-wow with General Sani Abacha, a friend in need. Havelange, for once in his life, admitted he made a personal mistake in moving the world under-17 championship from Nigeria to Qatar this year, and now invited himself back to Nigeria to ask forgiveness.

In truth, having shed so many of his trusted aides in Fifa, aides whom Havelange considered plotted against his presidency a year ago, he had returned to Africa, which voted him substantially into power 21 years ago.

The general showed gratitude by decorating Havelange with the title "Ekwueme" — the man who promises and delivers — and this means he is now "Chief Havelange".

In return, Havelange promised to repay a debt, promised that he will now grant Nigeria the 1997 world youth championship, taking it away from the already-elected Malaysia.

President Havelange will hear, very soon, from the Asians that he cannot do this. No longer does the Fifa executive committee blindly follow its leader. It now has a new candidate proposing a vision in which decisions are accountable and made not by one man but, as their statute defines, by the full executive.

Aside from any misjudgment Havelange makes on his presumption that all Africa applauds his trip to Nigeria, there is a new mood throughout the world football body. If only it were a mood which the distracted English administrators had time, inclination and an identifiable leader to support.

Clubs hold fire on TV deal

By Russell Kempson

AFTER meeting for three hours in London yesterday, the 72 Football League chairmen could not agree on whether to accept the offer of £118.5 million from the Football Association to secure television rights to screen matches. Consequently, the five-year deal — £18.5 million down and £25 million per annum for four years — was withdrawn by the FA, which had already given the Football League a two-week extension.

The chairmen were also presented with a rival bid by the FA Premier League, but, again, the board of the Football League recommended to its clubs that any decision should be put on hold. David Davies, the FA's director of public affairs, said: "It's deeply disappointing that, after almost six months of debate with the League's representatives, a request for still more time should be made. Well, it isn't available.

"One extension has already come and gone. We have always made it clear we are not prepared to enter into any form of auction that might follow a succession of deadline extensions. It is for the Football League to now decide whether they want to try to reopen negotiations at some point in the future. For the moment, the matter is closed."

Gordon McKeag, the Football League president, said: "We are disappointed but not entirely surprised by the FA's decision, but we find it encouraging that the door remains open with them."

The offer by the Premier League, of which few details are known, was presented by Rick Parry, the chief executive. "We went with a relatively simple message: why rush?" he said. "What's the panic? What's needed is a sensible debate about structure and resources of the national game. We haven't imposed any deadline or pressure."

Everton are preparing to challenge the Scottish Football Association (SFA) in court after an independent tribunal refused to overturn the SFA's 12-match suspension on Duncan Fergsuon, their striker. Ferguson is serving a three-month sentence in Barlinnie Prison, Glasgow, for headbutting John McStay, of Raith Rovers, when playing for Rangers in April 1994.

Ferguson's suspension, for the same offence, means he will not be able to resume his playing career — he is released from jail on November 22 — until mid-January. Peter Johnson, Everton chairman, said: "We requested a judicial review as we do not believe people should be punished twice."

Terry Phelan, the Ireland and Manchester City full back, has agreed to join Chelsea for £750,000. The deal had stalled as Phelan had demanded that the remainder of his two-year contract at Maine Road be paid up — because he had not asked for move. However, after further talks with City officials, the matter has been settled.

FUNNIER THAN
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THINKING
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CHARGE OF CHELSEA
BADDIEL & SKINNER'S

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HUGH ROUTLEDGE

GREEN
FLAG
UMBRO

Terry Venables, the England coach, discusses tactics with the squad to play Switzerland next week after training at Bisham Abbey yesterday

Canvey talk language of classic underdog

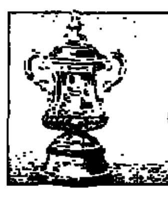
***Andrew Longmore** visits the ground in Essex that*

Brighton and Hove Albion will tread with fear

Canvey Island Football Club has a long history and a Latin motto to prove it. *Infantus et effectus*. "Youthful but effective" is the local translation, which sounds suitably impressive as Canvey Island prepare for the biggest day in their 70 years, against Brighton in the first round of the FA Cup tomorrow. "Load of old rubbish," Jeff King, the Island's rotund manager, says. "What's Latin for a bunch of old has-beens?"

They call things as they see them in this unfashionable outpost of Essex and nobody could accuse the Islanders of taking their first brush with FA Cup history too seriously. The chief source of amusement at training on Thursday night was an inflatable Frankenstein, dubbed "Ports" after the club's square-jawed and thick-necked centre half, Steve Porter.King has not bothered to watch Brighton, nor will he change his time-honoured philosophy of making the game fun just because the opposition boast a fancy manager and a superiority of five divisions. Canvey are an unbeaten second in the Icis League second division, have lost in the FA Cup already only to be reinstated after King's Lynn fielded an inelegible player, and are as ready as they will ever be to pose as giant-killers. What is there to lose?

"To be honest, I don't believe all this stuff about Brighton not fancying it here. They'll be ready and so will we and nothing that happens will surprise me," King says. "Brighton could come out like a whirlwind and knock the stuffing right out of us." Few would be willing to bet on it. The painful memory of an early exit to Kingstonian 12 months ago will be refreshed as soon as Brighton spy the spartan Park Lane ground, set in the middle of a housing estate, and feel the warmth of the welcome. "It will be a culture shock for them. Coming down here with 4,000 people screaming at them from six feet away," Tony Mahoney, once of Brentford and Fulham and one of the four players in the Canvey Island side with Football League experience, said.



FA CUP

"The ground's improved a lot from last year," King said. "It's got grass on it." And a bright new 200-seat stand alongside. Five years ago, when King and his chairman, Ray Cross, adopted their home club, the stand housed a dumper truck, a few sleepers and a heap of weeds, and the 30 or so spectators could not drum up enough cash to pay the referee and linesmen. Gates now average 500 and new supporters are hitching themselves to the yellow-army bandwagon every week as a run to the semi-final of the FA Vase has been followed with implausible haste by a trip to the first round of the FA Cup.

"No one set out any plans," King said. "We just got together a few players who knew what they were doing and kept it going." Among them, Glenn Pennyfather, who had 17 years in the league, playing for Southend United, Crystal Palace and Ipswich Town among other clubs, before accepting a part-time job at King's sports centre and joining Canvey Island.

"It's not easy to come straight from the league, where you're pampered and wrapped in cotton wool 48 hours before every game, but I've never known a team spirit like this," he said.

It is hardly surprising that the club should benefit from an upturn in the local economy. King runs the holiday camp, nightclubs in Eastbourne and Colchester and the sports centre, quite apart from owning the town's taxi service — for whom the goalkeeper, John Keeley, drives — and supplying the beer for the clubhouse. Cross owns a tarmacing company and drives a burgundy Rolls-Royce. Most commercial roads in Canvey Island will lead to one of their doors sooner or later.

"Don't talk to the chairman about football, will you?" King asks. Luck and enthusiasm are Cross's attributes, not football nous. Not that King is much given to the appliance of science either. Canvey Island will, he says, play as they always do. "Just get it down and whack it." I wonder what that is in Latin.

Pressure on Taylor to reproduce cup glory

By Peter Ball

THE Coca-Cola Cup replays are over, but the fizz lingers on in the West Midlands, with Wolverhampton Wanderers and Birmingham City gaining notable away victories. Endsleigh Insurance League points are more important, however, particularly for Wolverhampton and their increasingly-beleaguered manager, Graham Taylor.

Tomorrow, Wolverhampton face Charlton Athletic at Molineux, four days after they won at The Valley. Whether it will be a happy homecoming is questionable. Freed from the pressure for league points, his players showed their ability in South London, but doing it at home, with the need for points paramount, is proving more difficult.

The man himself is not shrinking from hard decisions. He left out Steve Bull on Wednesday, the first time the cult hero has been dropped in his long career.

While Taylor looks harassed, nothing seems to puncture the spirit of his opposite number at Birmingham, Barry Fry. He gave another flourish yesterday when he turned down Wimbledon's offer for his centre half, Liam Daish, adding that he thought Daish could do better than Wimbledon. All of which, apparently, was news to Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, who denied any deal had been proposed.

Birmingham's position among the front-runners should be maintained at Elm Park, Reading, where they have never lost. History bodes less well for West Bromwich Albion, who visit the Baseball Ground, Derby County, a barren land for them since 1920.

Elsewhere, attention is on the first round of the FA Cup. Some may be nervous, with potential giant killings including Bristol Rovers' difficult game at Hitchin, conquerors of Hereford United last year, Cardiff's visit to Rushden and Diamonds and a tense Sunday match for Brighton on Canvey Island.

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SPORT

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11 1995

Hill leads call for improved safety measures after Finn is left fighting for his life

Hakkinen's crash recalls dark days

From Oliver Holt
in Adelaide

ON THE last grand prix weekend of the season, when only pride was at stake and thoughts were drifting towards the extravagant post-race parties, Formula One motor racing was jolted back into the dark world it walked when Roland Ratzenberger and Ayrton Senna were killed 18 months ago.

Last night, Mika Hakkinen, the Finnish McLaren-Mercedes driver, was fighting for his life with a suspected fracture of the skull after a high-speed crash during the first qualifying session for the Australian Grand Prix tomorrow.

As Hakkinen, 27, lay in a coma, connected to a ventilator, in the intensive care unit of the Royal Adelaide Hospital, his throat scarred by the tracheotomy that surgeons had performed on him at the trackside, the inquests into the cause of the accident and the reason such serious injuries could not have been prevented were opened in an atmosphere of renewed disbelief.

Safety has been near the top of the sport's agenda since the events at Imola in May of last year and the head injury suffered by the Sauber driver, Karl Wendlinger, at Monaco a fortnight later. After the introduction of head restraints and measures to reduce the cars' cornering speeds, many had assumed scenes like yesterday's, which left Hakkinen in a "serious but stable" condition, lay in the past.

PATRICK WEDES

Hakkinen is helped from the wreckage of his McLaren after crashing in practice at Adelaide yesterday

But after it had been established that a punctured left rear tyre had prompted Hakkinen's car to spin out of control at 120mph at the Malthouse corner, Michael Schumacher and Damon Hill suggested that the thickness of tyre barriers protecting cars from the concrete wall behind them left much to be desired.

Together with Gerhard Berger, the Ferrari driver, they drove to the corner where the McLaren-Mercedes had been launched into the air, and demanded that a kerb be removed to stop it acting as a ramp and that more tyres be placed in front of the wall before the second qualifying session today. Track officials agreed to their requests.

"You can never be totally sure," Hill said, "but I would say that, if there had been enough tyres there, it would have been possible to cushion the blow. I was surprised to see that, although the tyres were three layers deep a few yards away, there was only one layer at the point where Mika's car flew off the track. That is not going to be enough to absorb an impact against a concrete wall.

"We have to keep putting the pressure on to find more ways of preventing accidents that cause serious injuries. It always seems obvious afterwards but, in this instance, it is clear that more tyres would have contributed to making the accident less severe. I usually go round the circuit the day before qualifying to look at things like this but, this time, I did not."

Schumacher also said that he assumed others would have checked that the correct safety measures were in place, but, after seeing in-car footage of the accident, which appeared to show Hakkinen's head slamming into the front of the cockpit, he and Berger said that they would press for air bags to be introduced.

"There have been experiments with them already," Berger said, "and the results have been sensational. The future lies with air bags up front, and on the left and right sides of the cockpit."

Safety questioned 1
Qualifying times 44
Ascari challenge .... Car 95

The qualifying session was only 12 minutes old when Hakkinen's car ran over some debris — which had also damaged the tyres of Pedro Lamy's Minardi and Schumacher's Benetton — and his left-hand rear wheel sustained a four-inch tear.

The car slewed sideways into the corner, the fastest on the street circuit, then slid backwards over the kerb and hurtled into the tyre barrier side-on without touching the ground.

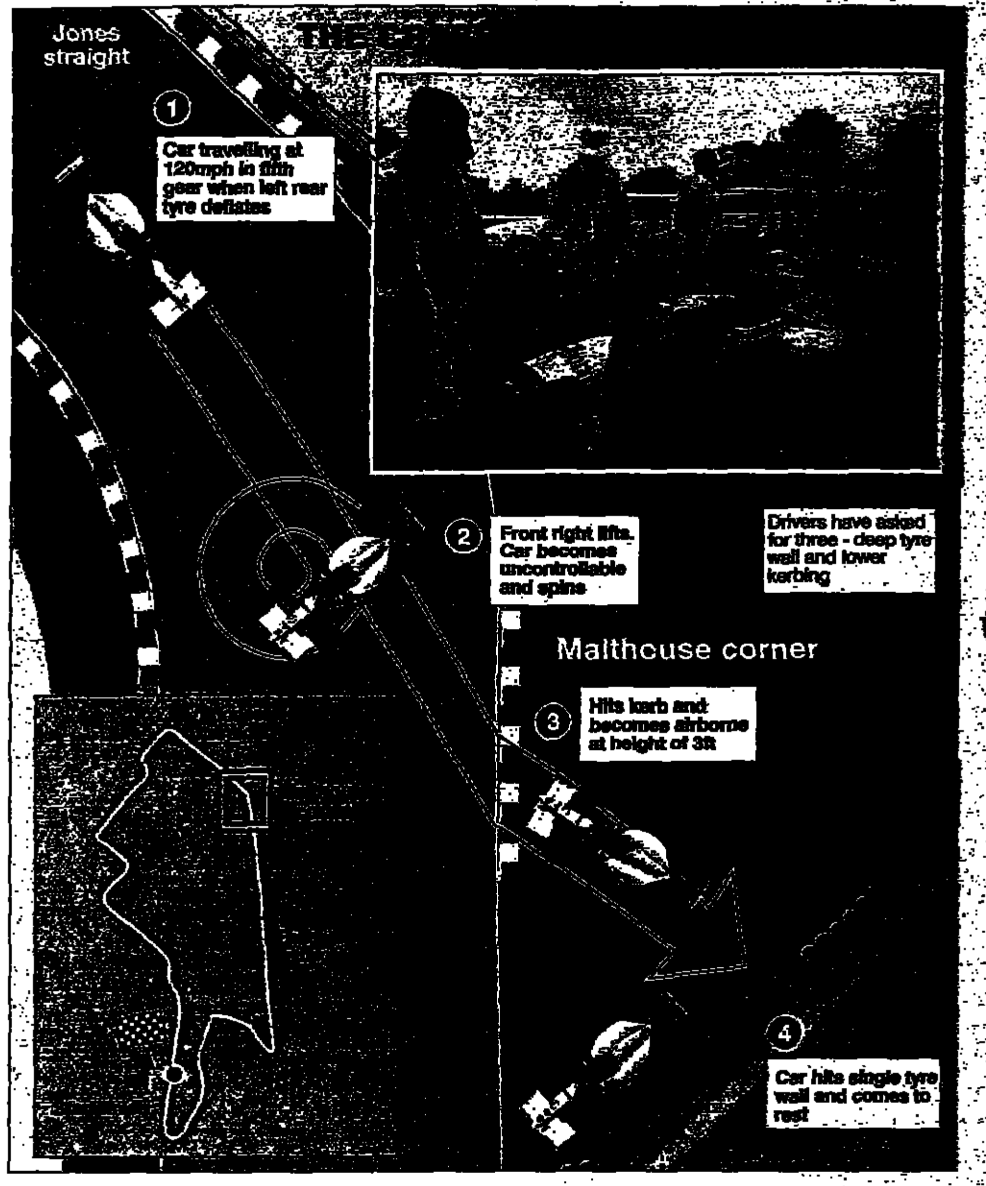
A hush descended on the circuit as the session was stopped and the drivers returned to their garages. They stared up at the television screens that showed the ambulances surrounding Hakkinen's car and watched as officials held up white sheets to hide the work being carried out by Sid Watkins, the sport's leading surgeon. It was reminiscent of the scenes that had cloaked the death of Senna.

After 20 minutes, the Finn was lifted into an ambulance and taken to hospital. After lengthy discussions, the drivers agreed to complete the session and Hill claimed provisional pole position by 0.1sec from David Coulthard. Schumacher was fourth behind Berger.

When Ron Dennis, the McLaren managing director, said: "The whole team is understandably distressed. Our thoughts will be with him throughout the next critical few days."

Just as Hakkinen's life is in danger, so, too, is his future as a leading driver. One of the most poignant sights yesterday was the anxious figure of Wendlinger, who was in a coma for 19 days after his crash, and is now struggling to resurrect his career.

"I have no memory of what happened to me," Wendlinger said. "I woke up in hospital and that was it. It is not like someone who knows he has a cancer and suffers for a long time. If it is the same for Mika as it was for me, I am sure there is no problem for him to come back again."



Jones straight
1
Car travelling at 120mph in fifth gear when left rear tyre deflates
2
Front right lifts. Car becomes uncontrollable and spins
Drivers have asked for three - deep tyre wall and lower kerbing
Malthouse corner
3
Hits kerb and becomes airborne at height of 3ft
4
Car hits single tyre wall and comes to rest

Driver's potential unfulfilled

From Oliver Holt

THE grand prix career of Mika Hakkinen has suffered alongside the decline in fortunes of his McLaren team. He was regarded as a future world champion when McLaren poached him from Lotus at the end of the 1992 season, but has not been given the quality of machinery to help him to realise his potential, and is still searching for his first victory in Formula One.

Hakkinen shone alongside Johnny Herbert at Lotus but was forced to act as a test driver for much of the 1993 season, when Ayrton Senna decided against taking a sabbatical year, and instead partnered Michael Andretti in his last year at McLaren. When Andretti and the team parted company prematurely, Hakkinen shocked Senna by outqualifying him during his first outing for the team at the Portuguese Grand Prix.

Hakkinen, who is single and comes from Helsinki but lives in Monaco, became the team leader when Senna left for Williams at the end of the year, but struggled in the uncompetitive McLaren-Peugeot and has still to shed his reputation as a slightly wild driver, prone to errors. Blond and confident, he is the epitome of a McLaren driver, loyally towing the party company line, never speaking out controversially.

This season, he strove to develop the team's new partnership with Mercedes, testing extensively in a car that was commonly perceived as "a dog" and enduring the farce of Nigel Mansell's brief stay with the team at the beginning of the season.

He had his appendix removed five weeks ago and consequently was forced to miss the Pacific Grand Prix at Aida, Japan. He returned refreshed and went on to equal his best result to date by finishing in second place in the Japanese Grand Prix, at Suzuka. There were high hopes of his intended partnership with David Coulthard next season.

Atherton stands firm as unorthodox slow bowler disrupts build-up to first Test

England mesmerised by novice spinner

From Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent
in Kimberley

KIMBERLEY (second day of four): England XI, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 343 runs behind South Africa A

ENGLAND'S cricketers found themselves spun reluctantly into the web of a young man's dreams on a broiling day that drained much of the conviction from their Test preparations. Their slim consolation at the end of it was that they will be spared another encounter with Paul Adams at Centurion Park next week, though maybe they should not even count on that.

As Adams, the Cape Coloured teenager who bowls left-arm wrist spin of rivetting unorthodoxy — memorably likened to a "frog in a blender" — dismissed three of England's Test batsmen for one run, the South Africa selectors will have regretted the early announcement of their Test squad. Despite official denials, they may, even now, consider expanding it, such was the groping uncertainty with which the touring side's most accomplished players confronted a bowler who played his first senior first-class cricket only a week ago.

Life must seem barely credible to Adams this morning. Whisked, to his own astonishment and the undisguised scepticism of others, into the South Africa shadow side, he waited until the evening of the second day to play any part and then, as if it was preordained, took a wicket with his second ball. Alec Stewart, pushing routinely forward to a ball delivered from round the wicket, pitching on middle-and-leg, saw it turn past the outside edge to clip off stump. Suddenly, the comparisons with Shane Warne did not seem quite so laughable.

Two maidens followed, before Adams dismissed Graham Thorpe and Graeme Hick in his fourth over. Thorpe was caught at silly point off bat and pad, and Hick was so entranced by Adams's extraordinary action, in which his head points consecutively at the sky and the ground, that he tamely returned a full toss to him.

Adams seldom ventured a Chinaman as variety to his customary googly, but he did bowl an effective flipper and his length was usually immaculate. His action is bizarre enough to have caused some raised eyebrows and dark muttering in the tour camp, but he had now taken three wickets for one and England, requiring 321 even to avoid the follow-on, were a sickly 59 for four, Ramprakash having fallen to a disappointingly poor defensive push against the innocuous seamers of Jacques Kallis.

Even in his most fretful moments, of which there have been many this week, Robin Smith could not have envisaged quite such harrowing circumstances in which to begin the innings liable to dictate his immediate Test prospects. After first-class scores of 4, 0 and 0, this was a last chance he only arguably deserved, and it would be stretching the truth to say he grabbed it with confidence.

Adams has been nicknamed "Gogga" by his team-mates at Western Province. A gogga, in these parts, is a particularly irritating insect, and he has been well named. Smith, certainly, found Adams far more of an irritant than the flies and wasps he was constantly swatting from his face, and he owed much to luck, and something to a drop by the wicketkeeper, for his survival, alongside the admirably unflurried Michael Atherton, to the close of a distressing day.

It had threatened to be featureless until Adams took the ball. South Africa A had batted on until 45 minutes after lunch, and with an ease that said as much about England's bowling as it did about this slow turner of a pitch. The spinners took three of the four wickets to fall, but if only one place is open to slow bowling in the Test side, Mike Watkinson has not improved his claim upon it. His length deserted him too often, and although he did dismiss Palframan, caught at slip, and bowled Steven Jack, after he had struck 44 from 45 balls, he once more looked incapable of maintaining order over a long period, as the spin bowler will be required to do next week.

A stodgy half-century from Lance Klusener was terminated, to general relief, when he missed a slow full toss from Darren Gough, who looks fit and focused for his return to the Test arena that has missed his ebullient presence since early July. Whether Malcolm makes the Test side, however, remains in doubt. He kept a better line yesterday but was seldom threatening.

There was a bigger crowd, swelled by a huge outing of uniformed schoolchildren, but it was a subdued gathering until Adams was summoned to bowl. Atherton and Stewart had by then put on 55 with minimal fuss, and England looked destined to quietly bat the day through, a modest enough ambition rendered foolishly presumptuous in the space of a few dramatic minutes that left Atherton in his too-familiar position, the captain on the burning deck.

Adams, his collar turned up and a watch on his left wrist, already looks a modern cricketer and, in the first four overs of an unchanged 18-over spell, he probably ensured that he will have wider horizons than his present day job in his brother's television repair shop.

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SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA A: First Innings

P J R Steyn c Thorpe b Gough	17
A M Bacher c Watkinson b Gough	116
J H Kallis b Hick	93
*J B Commins c Russell b Fraser	27
L J Wilkinson c Thorpe b Malcolm	16
L Klusener lbw b Gough	61
†S J Palframan c Hick b Watkinson	30
N Boje c Stewart b Hick	22
S D Jack b Watkinson	44
R Telemachus not out	9
Extras (b 16, lb 6, w 2, nb 11)	35
Total (9 wkts dec)	470

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-33, 2-214, 3-261, 4-290, 5-294, 6-362, 7-395, 8-418, 9-470.

P Adams did not bat.

BOWLING: Malcolm 22-3-88-1; Gough 29-6-85-3; Fraser 25-3-78-1; Watkinson 42-8-137-2; Thorpe 4-1-15-0; Hick 14-3-34-2; Ramprakash 6-1-11-0.

ENGLAND: First Innings

*M A Atherton not out	49
A J Stewart b Adams	34
M R Ramprakash c Palframan b Kallis	1
G P Thorpe c Klusener b Adams	1
G A Hick c and b Adams	0
R A Smith not out	31
Extras (b4, lb3, w4)	11
Total (4 wkts)	127

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-55, 2-58, 3-59, 4-59.

†R C Russell, M Watkinson, D Gough, A R C Fraser and D E Malcolm to bat.

Bowling: Jack 8-4-15-0, Telemachus 6-1-22-0, Klusener 11-1-30-0; Kallis 7-3-8-1; Adams 18-6-33-3; Boje 9-4-12-0

Umpires: D L Orchard and R E Koertzen

The ball is released from the back of the hand
Chinaman
Left-hand googly

Adams: three wickets

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